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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
6 September 2010—4 October 2010

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(FORMED BY THE RT HON. DAVID CAMERON, MP, MAY 2010)

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6 September 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 6 September 2010

TREASURY

Employer National Insurance Contributions (New Businesses)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government are determined that all parts of the UK benefit from sustainable economic growth, and that the private sector recovery is particularly strong in areas that are currently overly dependent on the public sector.

To help deliver this on 22 June 2010, the Chancellor announced the launch of a regional employer national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses (the holiday). The holiday comes into operation today, and will last until 5 September 2013. The holiday reduces employment costs for qualifying new businesses set up from 22 June 2010 outside Greater London, the South East and East of England. In doing so, it will directly provide an incentive to encourage enterprise and business growth.

On 27 August, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs published a technical note that included an overview of the scheme, draft clauses and draft explanatory notes. This was in order to provide as much certainty and clarity as possible to employers in qualifying businesses so that they are able to take advantage of the holiday from today.

Copies of the technical note have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and is also available on the HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/august.htm.

The draft clauses will be included in the forthcoming National Insurance Contributions Bill that will be introduced in the autumn.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Business (Recess)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I would like to update hon. Members, at the earliest opportunity, on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose on the 27 July 2010.

Transparency

As part of the coalition Government's drive to increase democratic accountability, we have asked all local authorities to publish performance and spending data over £500 online by January 2011. How taxpayers' money is spent should be available for public scrutiny. The public should be able to decide whether services have been delivered well and if they have achieved value for money. Already 45 councils have put their information online.

There should not be one rule for councils and another for the Whitehall Department overseeing local government. My Department has therefore now taken the step of being the first to publish all its expenditure over £500 for 2009-10 online, and I instructed the Department's main arm's length bodies to do likewise. We will publish our 2010 first-quarter spending at the end of this month and, in line with the rest of Whitehall, will publish all monthly spending from November onwards.

We also confirmed plans to review and tighten the "Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity", subject to consultation as required by statute, including stronger guidance to prevent taxpayers' money being spent on lobbyists who operate outside the freedom of information regime.

The Department also reached an agreement last month with the Ordnance Survey to provide free access for public sector bodies to all its core datasets from April 2011. This will replace costly and inefficient contracts and triple the number of bodies with access to the data.

Localism

We have continued to demonstrate our belief in the capability of councils to get the job done without Whitehall interference by further decentralising, devolving and reducing the bureaucratic burden faced by local authorities from Government regulation.

On 13 August, I announced plans to disband the Audit Commission. This decision was taken in line with the coalition Government's commitment to radically scale back centrally imposed, bureaucratic and costly inspection and auditing, saving council tax payers' money. The Audit Commission's responsibilities for overseeing and delivering local audit and inspections will stop; the Commission's research activities will end; audit functions will be moved to the private sector; councils will be free to appoint their own independent external auditors from a more competitive and open market; and there will be a new audit framework for local health bodies. This will save council tax payers £50 million. The National Audit Office will oversee the new audit arrangements, helping ensure probity, robust scrutiny and healthy competition.

I have also announced changes that will mean councils no longer have to administer endless guidance on food licences, road closures and insurance in order to allow communities to hold local fêtes and street parties. From now on councils will be able to request that organisers instead complete one simple form.

In addition, my Ministerial colleagues have over the past five weeks set out plans to:

> replace the various environmental impact assessments with one clear and streamlined set of regulations, making it easier for councils and developers to green-proof building projects;
>
> end the intrusive and bureaucratic Place Survey saving £4 million a year;
>
> give local authorities new powers to review and revoke byelaws without needing to seek permission from this Department. It should not take a rubber stamp from central Government to scrap outdated local laws, such as on the use of dickey straps, the beating of carpets or the transport of dead horse carcasses; and
>
> allow the Local Government Association to take over control of the Revenue Support Grant "top-slice" funding that goes to local service and leadership improvement bodies, combined with the LG Group adopting the same transparency standards that councils are obliged to follow, including being subject for the first time to freedom of information requests.

Following the revocation of regional spatial strategies that created top-down targets for councils, Ministers in my Department have announced that the New Homes Bonus scheme will be introduced early in the spending review period so that councils and communities which go for growth now by supporting the construction of new homes where they are needed will receive direct and substantial extra incentive funding to spend as they wish.

We were further able to confirm last week that the New Homes Bonus scheme will also apply to the provision of authorised traveller sites. This was part of a balanced package of proposals to ensure fair play in the planning system. The tenure rights of travellers on authorised local authority sites will be strengthened, and subject to necessary impact assessments, we announced our intention to revoke the controversial top-down planning circulars with short, light-touch guidance that will give local authorities greater discretion. These reforms will help strengthen community cohesion which has been undermined by the perception that different planning rules apply for different groups. Further announcements on this issue will be made in due course.

People power

As a Department we are committed to devolving real power to people.

On 30 July I set out proposals to give the public the power to veto excessive council tax rises. This will replace top-down council tax capping by this Department. And under separate plans, students studying under European institutions will receive the same council tax exemptions as students studying in England.

We also announced plans to put the 8 million tenants in social housing in control of where they live through a national affordable home-swap scheme. For the first time this will give tenants the chance to see details of every council and housing association tenant looking to exchange homes—not just in their area but across the country. This will strengthen the rights of tenure for tenants—allowing them to move home without losing their place on the social housing ladder.

In conjunction with the Secretary of State for Transport, I have written a joint letter to local authorities to encourage them to avoid a proliferation of unnecessary signs, railings and advertising hoardings in order to make streets tidier and less confusing for drivers and pedestrians. We took the opportunity to remind them that Government advice in this area clearly states that for signs to be most effective, they should be kept to a minimum. As part of the big society, we are also urging community groups to inform their local council of particularly bad examples of excessive street clutter.

Finally, a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen has been unveiled in the reception of the Department for Communities and Local Government. The small capital cost of the new official portrait in Eland House, Victoria, was funded through savings made in ministerial budgets. The Queen has an extremely important role to play in unifying people, no matter what their social background, race or religion.

Copies of the press notices containing more details of each item of business listed above have been placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Aggregated Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I am pleased to be able to announce to the House details of changes to eligibility for the award of campaign medals to personnel serving in Afghanistan and Iraq that have been approved by Her Majesty the Queen following recommendations by the military chiefs of staff. These amendments will be backdated to the start of both operations and will ensure that personnel who have served on both operations receive the recognition that they deserve.

The current eligibility criteria for the operational service medal (Afghanistan) and the Iraq medal require personnel to have served within the qualifying area for 30 continuous days. As a result, groups of service personnel who hitherto fulfilled their duty obligations during difficult and sometimes dangerous tours of duty but who did not meet the 30 days continuous service requirement were excluded from qualification for a medal. Examples of such groups include, but are not exclusively limited to, the aeromedical evacuation teams who have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq and who accompany injured patients back to the UK. Similarly, personnel based at the Kuwait support facility who conducted convoys into Iraq but who did not accumulate 30 continuous days service in Iraq have not qualified for the Iraq medal.

Personnel who deploy to or from the operational theatre for short periods to complete specific operational tasks, and subsequently return on one or more occasions, will now be allowed to accrue aggregate qualifying service in the defined medal earning area. The qualifying period for aggregate service will be 45 days which is longer than that required for continuous service in recognition of the intermittent rather than continuous exposure to risk and rigour. The eligibility criteria will distinguish between those on operational duty and visitors who will continue to be ineligible for medals on an aggregate basis.

Personnel who are evacuated from the operational theatre as a result of either death or wounding are awarded the appropriate campaign medal no matter how long they have served there and this will not change.

The inclusion of aggregate service will be retrospective to the start of both operations in Afghanistan (11 September 2001) and Iraq (20 January 2003). Individuals who believe that they meet the new criteria are invited to apply for the OSM (Afghanistan) or Iraq medal directly to the MOD Medal Office. Information will be promulgated internally to each service and externally (for those who have now left the armed forces) via service and ex-service organisations.

EDUCATION

Pupil Place Planning

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Today I am announcing the first 16 Free School proposals to progress to the next stage of the process and develop a full business case and plan.

We need to reform our education system if we are to accelerate improvement to keep pace with the highest-performing systems of the world and ensure that every pupil growing up in this country gets a better chance of achieving their potential. Free Schools form an integral part of the Government's education policy to improve choice for parents and raise standards for all young people.

The proposals I have agreed to move forward to business case and plan stage today represent a diverse mix: there are parent-led, community-led, sponsor-led and teacher-led proposals; there are faith and non-faith proposals; there are proposals for large secondary schools and for small primary schools. All of these proposals have been driven by demand from local people for improved choice for their young people and I am delighted that so many promising proposals have come forward at such an early stage.

I hope that many of the projects progressing today will become the first Free Schools in September 2011. This is a challenging time scale, and some groups may decide that it is preferable to open at a later date for practical reasons. To support groups in meeting the robust requirements of the business case and plan stage, we will now be providing the proposers that progress to this stage with support co-ordinated by a named contact within my Department. At the next stage, proposers will need to make a fully detailed business case for the new school and set out their plans for opening and operating the proposed school. I will make an assessment based on this final business case on whether to allow a new school to be set up.

The proposals announced today are just the start of our Free Schools programme. My Department has received a number of promising proposals for 2012 and 2013 and we will be making further announcements about taking these forward in due course. New proposals are frequently being submitted to the Department. We want it to be open to a diverse range of groups to come forward with proposals which meet the needs of their local area, and for proposals to progress at the pace which is right for both proposers and for parents and young people in the local area.

The 16 proposals approved to go forward to business case and plan stage are (in alphabetical order):

Bedford and Kempston Free School, Bedford Borough
The Childcare Company, Slough
Discovery New School, West Sussex
The Free School Norwich, Norfolk
Haringey Jewish Primary School, Haringey
I-Foundation Primary School, Leicester
King's Science Academy, Bradford
Mill Hill Jewish Primary School, Barnet
Nishkam Education Trust, Birmingham
North Westminster Free School (ARK), Westminster
Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick School, Warwickshire
Rivendale Free School, Hammersmith and Fulham
St. Luke's School, Camden
Stour Valley Community School, Suffolk
West London Free School, Ealing or Hammersmith and Fulham
Wormholt North Hammersmith Free School (ARK), Hammersmith and Fulham (to be known as Burlington Primary Academy)

I will update the House as these projects progress further.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Parliamentary Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question 7334 on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 703-704W, about information and communication technology spend since 1997. The response neither fully answered the question nor contained accurate data. A corrected answer is provided below.

Graham Evans (Weaver Vale): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much (a) her Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7334]

Richard Benyon: In response to the amount spent on information and communication technology since 1997, the Department was not formed until 2001 and data between then and April 2007 could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

	07-08	*08-09*	*09-10*
Core DEFRA	126.8	99.9	113.5
Rest of DEFRA	265.8	269.0	284.9
	392.6	368.9	398.4

Breakdown for the rest of DEFRA

	07-08	*08-09*	*09-10*
Animal Health	27.6	35.2	29.5
Environment Agency	84.0	88.0	115.5
Kew	1.9	2.0	4.0
Natural England	46.7	35.5	32.3
Rural Payments Agency	91.0	93.7	88.5
British Waterways	7.0	7.2	6.6
FERA	1.3	1.4	2.5
CEFAS	1.2	1.4	1.3
VLA	3.2	2.6	2.7
Smaller Units (estimate)	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total	265.8	269.0	284.9

The information is not held in full for smaller bodies, and this can only be assembled at disproportionate cost. Estimates have therefore been used based on partial data.

Private Sewers and Lateral Drains (Ownership Transfer)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am pleased to announce that on 26 August 2010 I published for consultation draft regulations to effect the transfer of private sewers into the ownership of the statutory sewerage companies in England from 2011. The consultation paper sets out the Government's intentions and provides an opportunity for interested parties to respond with their views on the accompanying draft regulations. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

The decision to transfer follows an extensive review of the arrangements for private sewers and laterals in England and Wales. Existing private sewers and lateral drains (that part of the drain that extends beyond the property boundary) are currently the responsibility of the owners of the properties they serve. This fact typically comes as a surprise to owners, who usually assume that the sewer and lateral drain serving their property are the responsibility of the local sewerage company or local authority.

Private sewers serve more than one property so ownership is shared and usually a large extent of the sewer will lie outside a property's own boundary. Lateral drains serve one property but always lie outside the property's boundary. Transfer provides the only comprehensive solution to a range of private sewer and lateral drain problems affecting householders. These include a lack of awareness of owners' responsibilities and unwillingness or inability to co-ordinate or contribute to potentially high costs of maintenance and repair. It will bring simplification and clarity to owners, local authorities and sewerage companies, all of whom typically become involved when these problems arise.

Transfer will also significantly help address a lack of integrated management of the sewerage network as a whole, and provide much greater efficiency of effort, environmental stewardship and expenditure at a time when climate change impacts and housing growth may impose greater demands on urban drainage systems. Having a much greater proportion of the sewer network in the management of the water and sewerage companies means they will be able to plan maintenance and resolve problems more easily and comprehensively. The Government are also taking steps to stem the proliferation of newly built private sewers in order to prevent the recurrence of existing problems in the future.

Subject to approval of the regulations, transfer will take place from October 2011 in order to allow the water industry and those businesses operating around it sufficient time to prepare for transfer. The costs of necessary future improvement and maintenance will, post transfer, be met by an increase in the sewerage element of bills for the generality of customers. Although these costs cannot be stated now with certainty, Ofwat estimates indicative increases of around £3 to £14 per annum across the water and sewerage companies in England.

JUSTICE

Legal Services Ombudsman

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): On 12 August 2010, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor made directions (which will take effect on 6 October 2010) instructing the legal services ombudsman to limit her investigations to those arising from service complaints against persons described in section 22(1)(a) and (b) of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. The directions were made by virtue of his powers under section 21 of, and paragraph 1(1) of schedule 3 to, the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c.41).

The directions support the transitional arrangements. They ensure a timely cessation of the current system under which the legal services ombudsman operates and establish (as of 6 October 2010) the new Office for Legal Complaints which will administer a fair, transparent and independent legal complaints handling scheme, namely the Legal Ombudsman (LeO). Under the new scheme the LeO will not have jurisdiction to deal with conduct complaints and these will be dealt with by the respective approved regulator.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 7 September 2010

CABINET OFFICE

"Making it Easier for Charities to Sell Land"

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Nick Hurd): I have today published the Government's response to the consultation "Making it easier for charities to sell and make other disposals of land". Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Cabinet Office website at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

EDUCATION

Schools: The Single Level Test Pilot

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): Schools involved in piloting single level tests will today be informed of Ministers' decision to end the pilot on completion of the June 2010 test round. The pilot has now provided sufficient evidence on single level tests to be considered as we review how key stage 2 tests operate in the future.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Sewer Overflows (River Thames)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): In the 19th century Sir Joseph Bazalgette built a sewerage network for London with the capacity that he believed would meet all foreseeable needs. It has been updated and modernised but for some years has been coming under increased strain to the point that combined sewer overflows discharge raw sewage into the River Thames on around 50 occasions a year.

This figure is expected to increase. Recent Thames Water work has shown that the system is operating closer to its maximum capacity than previously recognised and, with population growth, increasing urbanisation and climate change, it is estimated that in 10 to 20 years time sewage will be overflowing into the Thames even when there is little rain.

Complete eradication of some spills of sewage into the Thames during periods of heavy rainfall is not feasible: this is the legacy of a sewerage system which carries both foul water and rainwater. But the frequency and volume of spills we face in future is unacceptable and should be reduced to ensure that environmental standards in the Thames continue to meet the standards set by the Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994.

Since the 22nd March 2007 statement by the then Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson), on the need to improve the water quality in the Thames by upgrading the sewerage infrastructure, Thames Water have started work on building a tunnel (known as the Lee tunnel) from Abbey Mills pumping station to an upgraded Beckton sewage treatment works at a total cost of around £0.8 billion. When complete these works should reduce the total volume of sewage overflows into the tidal Thames by around two thirds. However significant volumes of raw sewage will still continue to enter the Thames at times of heavy rainfall particularly in the higher reaches of the tidal Thames from Hammersmith through central London which will get less benefit from the Lee tunnel.

Mr Pearson's statement supported the construction of a second "Thames Tunnel" to address unsatisfactory overflows from Hammersmith to Beckton. Since 2007 Thames Water, the Environment Agency, and Ofwat have worked together to improve the evidence base, to take forward the design process including costings, and explore possible commercial arrangements. The then Government announced their intention to go forward with the scheme. Despite that the European Commission has continued to pursue infractions proceedings against us claiming we are failing to meet our obligations under the urban waste water treatment directive in the London area, and in Whitburn in the North East of England.

In 2007 the then Government judged the cost of the scheme to be at least £2 billion, with a peak annual increase in bills for Thames Water customers of £37. Since then greater analysis and study by Thames Water have led to a revised estimate of £3.6 billion, including contingency costs but excluding the Lee tunnel and other elements of the scheme which have already been contracted for. This could result in future peak annual bill increases of around £60-65 (£80-90 including the Lee tunnel and other elements).

I recognise that in the current economic context this represents a significant cost to Thames Water customers and, while we judge this to be a robust cost estimate for this stage of the process we cannot rule out further changes to the estimates as work progresses. However a Thames Tunnel continues to offer (by far) the lowest cost solution to the problem and I believe Thames Water should continue to press forward with this project working with Ofwat, the Environment Agency and DEFRA on the regulatory, commercial and planning processes. Thames Water intend to consult on options for the route of the tunnel shortly. We with Ofwat will continue to ensure that the costs are scrutinised and reviewed so that I can be assured before Thames Water sign a construction contract that the final proposal represents proper value for money. As we go through this process, I intend to update the 2007 impact assessment for the tunnel and place it on the DEFRA website.

I am also minded that development consent for the project should be dealt with under the regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects established by the Planning Act 2008. I consider that this project, with its unique scale and complexity, is of national significance, and therefore appropriate for this regime.

I will be considering the appropriate mechanism under the 2008 Act to ensure the Thames tunnel project is considered under this national level regime and intend to include consideration of the Thames tunnel in the draft national policy statement for waste water. I plan to lay this before both Houses of Parliament later this autumn.

HEALTH

Adult Autism Strategy (Statutory Guidance)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Paul Burstow): A national public consultation on statutory guidance for health and social care bodies to support the delivery of "Rewarding and fulfilling lives: The strategy for adults with autism in England (2010)", under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 was launched on 29 July 2010. A copy has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

The landmark Autism Act 2009 (introduced as a Private Members Bill by the now Secretary of State for Wales) marks a milestone in the drive to transform support and services for adults with autism in England. This Government have already made clear the commitment to drive forward work to tackle the disadvantage which people with autism and their families sadly so often face and to deliver the autism strategy published earlier this year by the previous Government.

This consultation on draft guidance for health and social services bodies to support the implementation of the autism strategy is a marker of that commitment. The draft guidance focuses on the seven areas highlighted in the Autism Act 2009 and is focused on achieving two key outcomes:

> improving the way health and social care services identify the needs of adults with autism; and
>
> ensuring identified needs are met more effectively to improve the health and well-being of adults with autism and their families.

Throughout, the draft guidance underlines the importance of using existing processes and resources to achieve these outcomes.

The aims of the consultation are to:

> hear the views of service commissioners and providers, people with autism and family carers and use those views to inform the development of the statutory guidance;
>
> further understand the expectations of adults with autism and their family carers in relation to health and social care services;
>
> seek views on the issues around the provision of health and social care services for adults with autism; and
>
> gather more information about health and care services currently provided for adults with autism and family carers.

The consultation will run to 18 October 2010, and we will publish final guidance, informed by the responses we receive, in December.

This consultation on statutory guidance for health and social care bodies is part of an ongoing programme of activity to ensure adults with autism will be able to enjoy the same rights and freedoms as the rest of society. This Government are committed to supporting people with autism to live independently as equal and included citizens. This means ensuring that programmes across the voluntary and public sectors that are aimed at improving care and transforming services address the needs of people with autism; and that mainstream public services especially become more inclusive of people with autism.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Equality Act 2010

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Equality Act 2010 includes an integrated public sector Equality Duty. This will replace the existing race, disability and gender equality duties and is extended to cover age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment in full.

Schedule 19 to the Act lists certain bodies which will be subject to the duty. The Act contains a power allowing a Minister of the Crown to add bodies to this list and it also contains a power for a Minister of the Crown to impose specific duties on listed public bodies to help them in better performance of the duty.

On 19 August 2010 the Government published a consultation document setting out draft regulations for the new specific duties and proposing which bodies should be added to schedule 19 and subject to the specific duties.

The consultation period will run until 10 November 2010.

I am placing copies of the consultation document in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk.

TRANSPORT

Parliamentary Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question UIN 11900 on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1000-01. The accurate table is detailed below:

(ii) Separate training is also provided for staff working remotely on laptops. Formalised external training began in October 2009.

	Hours	*Cost (£)*
2009-10 (from October)	61	5,709
2010-11 (to date)	19	2,076

Heathrow Operations

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): In January 2009, the previous Government announced their decisions relating to the future of Heathrow Airport. In addition to supporting the construction of a third runway, a number of additional decisions were taken relating to operations at the airport.

This Government have already made their position clear in rejecting the case for a third runway, and opposing new runways at London's other main airports—Gatwick and Stansted. I now wish to outline the Government's position in relation to those additional operational decisions.

I can confirm that we remain firmly committed to retaining runway alternation and will not approve the introduction of mixed mode operations at Heathrow. This Government believe that any potential benefits mixed mode might bring to the airport are outweighed by the negative impact such operations would have on local communities.

Operating procedures known as westerly preference, early morning runway alternation and night-time rotation of easterly/westerly preference have also all brought noise mitigation benefits to local communities. This Government do not intend to revisit previous decisions taken in relation to these procedures and they will continue to operate as they do now.

The previous Government's decisions in 2009 also included a commitment to end the Cranford agreement. This decision was based on the desire to distribute noise more fairly around the airport and extend the benefits of runway alternation to communities under the flight paths during periods of easterly winds. We support that objective and do not intend to re-open the decision. A number of infrastructure and operational changes by BAA and NATS are needed to implement this decision. The airport operator, BAA, is currently developing proposals for ending the Cranford agreement with a view to confirming the necessary works by the end of this year. I will look to BAA to ensure that proper consideration is given to appropriate mitigation and compensation measures for those likely to be affected by the proposals.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 8 September 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Investment in the Further Education Estate

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): On 24 May the Government announced that £50 million of re-prioritised Train to Gain funding would be invested in the further education infrastructure to support the development of new college facilities. On the 21 June, I informed the House that though the Government could not undo the previous mismanagement of the FE capital programme, they fully recognised the importance of ensuring that the teaching and learning facilities in our further education colleges be modern and fit for purpose.

That is why I made it clear that the Government would support those colleges who had not previously benefited significantly from public investment and so the £50 million would be targeted at those further education colleges that had received less than £5 million in total grant support since 2001 from the Learning and Skills Council.

I am pleased to inform Parliament that the Skills Funding Agency has today written to those colleges informing them that they will each receive up to a £225,000 renewal grant. The chief executive has informed 21 of these colleges that in addition to receiving a renewal grant they will also receive an additional enhanced renewal grant taking their total grant up to £1 million. This will help colleges modernise their facilities, giving them a much needed boost at a time when education could not be more important. Finally, the Skills Funding Agency is working with a further five colleges to resolve affordability issues so that they too can receive capital investment.

The Skills Funding Agency received 92 applications which were assessed in a robust and transparent process using three key criteria: the existing condition of the college estate and its facilities; proposed benefits to learners; and how the projects would contribute to the regeneration of their local communities.

This Government are committed to open and transparent decision making and accordingly the assessment exercise was scrutinised by representatives of the Association of Colleges who were satisfied that the selection process had been conducted properly and run smoothly.

All recipients of the enhanced renewal grant are expected to begin construction shortly with completion anticipated in September 2011, allowing learners to benefit from these new facilities in the 2011 academic year.

In addition I expect colleges to leverage additional private resources and I am pleased to inform the House that it is estimated that the £50 million allocated by the Government will produce a total investment in the further education estate of over £230 million. I am sure the House will agree that this investment will make a significant difference to learners across the country.

Please visit the Skills Funding Agency website (http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) for a full list of successful colleges.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Thurrock Thames Gateway Urban Development Corporation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I am today announcing that from 1 April 2012 the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation (TTGDC) will cease operation and become part of Thurrock borough council, although a decision on the treatment of the assets currently held by TTGDC will be made at a later stage.

Last year, the previous Administration undertook a quinquennial review of the development corporation's performance from inception. Following that review, it was decided that the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) should be transferred into the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). I have reviewed this decision and have concluded that this should not be implemented—it was a centralising measure that would have further distanced local people from decisions about the future of their area. In addition, the consultation undertaken as part of the review showed clearly that there was no local support in favour of this decision.

In deciding the way forward for TTGDC, I have considered the coalition commitments to cutting the costs of quangos and increasing accountability, and to localism. I have concluded that it is right TTGDC should transfer to the local council. This will chime with our approach to the Thames Gateway generally, where I am decentralising strategic oversight to local political leaders. This will lead to a number of benefits including:

maintaining the momentum of private sector investment;

enabling efficiency savings to be made through shared services;

achieving value for money by limiting public sector investment necessary to enable maximum private investment;

strengthening local control over regeneration and the operation of planning responsibilities, and;

strengthening the council's capacity to drive regeneration.

In order to affect these changes TTGDC will move into the council's premises by March 2011, enabling some efficiency gains to be realised quickly. TTGDC will work more closely with the council during 2011-12, before ceasing independent operation from 1 April 2012. It will be formally wound up following adoption of its final report and accounts later that year. The treatment of the assets currently held by TTGDC will be considered as part of the detailed arrangements for the transfer.

DEFENCE

Defence Fixed Telecommunications Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I wish to inform the House that my Department has recently extended our public-private partnership contract with BT Group to provide the Defence Fixed Telecommunications Services (DFTS). DFTS provides secure and survivable wide area network voice, data and video telecommunications services to defence users in the UK and abroad, and also to defence and industry partners including the National Air Traffic Systems and the Met Office. The services provided under the contract are vital to the daily operation of the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces, both in peace and at war.

The current contract, which expires in July 2012, has been extended for three years until 2015 under existing contractual provisions. The extension is valued at about £810 million. It is expected to achieve net operational and financial benefits in excess of £90 million and, through taking full advantage of BT's 21st century network programme, will lead to improvements in performance and security which would otherwise be unachievable. A number of impending obsolescence issues will also be resolved.

Work is under way to re-compete the contract before this extension comes to an end in 2015. This will form part of a major overhaul in the way the MOD procures and manages voice, data, video and information and communication technology services, and will reflect the outcome of the strategic defence and security review.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Equine Infectious Anaemia

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I wish to inform the House that on the afternoon of 6 September 2010 the chief veterinary officer for the United Kingdom confirmed equine infectious anaemia (EIA) in one horse in Northumberland following importation from the Netherlands.

A single premises is currently under disease control restrictions and the infected horse has been humanely destroyed.

The infected animal arrived in a group of six horses. The other five horses have tested negative for the disease. There are a further 11 horses on the premises which are also being tested for the disease. As part of our control measures we will be undertaking a detailed epidemiological investigation. We have identified a bridleway adjacent to the premises. We have agreed with the local authority that they will put in place notices at relevant points leading to the bridleway advising horse owners not to exercise their horses in this area.

The risk of further spread among horses is considered by experts to be very low, but this will be kept under review pending further epidemiological investigation. Expert advice from the Health Protection Agency is that EIA is not a risk to human health and that there is no evidence that this incident presents a risk to the local community.

This is the second case of equine infectious anaemia *in recently imported horses this year.* Prior to 2010 there had been no confirmed cases since 1976. This shows the success of our post-import testing regime. This was an apparently healthy horse carrying a notifiable disease that we are keen to keep out of Great Britain.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Extradition Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am today announcing to Parliament the Government's plans to review the UK's extradition arrangements.

The coalition's programme for Government document published on 20 May, stated that

> "We will review the operation of the Extradition Act—and the US/UK extradition treaty—to make sure it is even-handed".

This announcement sets out how we propose to do this.

There are a number of areas of the UK's extradition arrangements which have attracted significant controversy in recent years. The Government understand that these are long-standing concerns and the review will therefore focus on five issues to ensure that the UK's extradition arrangements work both efficiently and in the interests of justice. These issues are:

breadth of Secretary of State discretion in an extradition case;

the operation of the European arrest warrant, including the way in which those of its safeguards which are optional have been transposed into UK law;

whether the forum bar to extradition should be commenced;

whether the US-UK extradition treaty is unbalanced;

whether requesting states should be required to provide prima facie evidence.

The review will be conducted by a small panel of experts who we are now seeking to appoint. We expect the review to report by the end of the summer 2011.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 9 September 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Pre-Council Statement (Foreign Affairs)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The Foreign Affairs Council will be held on 10 September in Brussels. I will be representing the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

Economic Partnership Agreements

Ministers will discuss next steps on the economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, including how to progress negotiations further, being as flexible as possible while retaining compatibility with the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). They may also discuss the implementation of EPAs already signed and the impact of EPAs on regional integration.

South Korea Free Trade Agreement

The presidency will seek Ministers' approval and signature of this free trade agreement (FTA) on behalf of the European Council. Discussion is also likely to cover the progress of the associated bilateral safeguard regulation through ordinary legislative procedure in the European Parliament. They will also agree to provisional application of the FTA's commitments, the date to be confirmed later in the year following parallel work in the European Parliament.

Investment

Ministers will discuss the Commission's communication on the future of the European Union's international investment policy. This discussion is likely to cover which countries will take priority as the EU seeks partners for new EU-investment agreements and what these agreements should cover. It is also likely that the regulation to manage the transfer of competency for international investment policy, which was published in parallel with the communication, will also be raised.

Any Other Business: Pakistan

Following the catastrophic flooding which continues to cause considerable devastation in Pakistan, Ministers will discuss plans for the EU to agree a comprehensive package of support for Pakistan's recovery both in the short and longer-term, including substantive measures on trade. The discussion is likely to cover both increased humanitarian assistance from member states and the Commission, as well as mechanisms to grant Pakistan increased market access to the EU, either through membership of the generalised system of preferences(+) (GSP+) scheme or through immediate, short-term reductions in EU tariffs on key Pakistani exports.

Any Other Business: Malaysia FTA

Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht will inform Ministers of recent discussions with Malaysia about the possible start of negotiations for a free trade agreement under the EU-ASEAN free trade agreement mandate.

EDUCATION

Vocational Education

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): For many years our education system has failed to value practical education, choosing to give far greater emphasis to purely academic achievements. This has left a gap in the country's skills base and, as a result, a shortage of appropriately trained and educated young people to fulfil the needs of our employers. To help support our economic recovery, we need to ensure that this position does not continue and in future we are able to meet the needs of our labour market. I am today announcing an independent review of vocational education which will be chaired by Professor Alison Wolf

To enable us to achieve this long-term aim, the Government are currently developing a new approach to qualifications, considering all routes which are available to young people, to ensure that the qualifications that they study for are rigorous, relevant and bear comparison with the best in the world. As part of this I have asked Professor Wolf to consider how we can improve vocational education for 14 to19-year-olds to support participation and progression, specifically: how vocational education for 14 to19-year-olds can be improved; what the appropriate target audience for vocational education is; what principles should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods of the vocational education offer; and how progression from vocational education to positive destinations can be improved. The review will not be considering the detailed content of specific qualifications, but will be focusing on the effectiveness of the overall structure of the vocational offer.

I have asked Professor Wolf to report to me by spring 2011, and to make practical recommendations that will ensure real change and have regard to current financial constraints.

I have today placed a copy of the letter I have sent to Professor Wolf in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Foreign Policy Meetings

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): There will be a series of EU foreign policy meetings in September.

10 to 11 September: Informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers "Gymnich". My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend.

10 September: Foreign Affairs Council (FAC). The Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Minister with responsibility for employment relations, consumer and postal affairs, the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey) will attend. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will table a written ministerial statement on this prior to the FAC.

13 September: General Affairs Council (GAC). I will represent the UK.

16 September: European Council: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary will attend.

Gymnich: 10-11 September

The Gymnich will be co-chaired by Baroness Ashton and the Belgian Foreign Minister, Vanackere. The main item will be the EU's relations with strategic partners, in preparation for the European Council. The meeting will also discuss Pakistan, Turkey and the workings of Foreign Affairs Councils. There will also be a meeting with EU candidate countries. Other topical issues—middle east peace process and western Balkans—may be discussed. But, because it is an informal meeting, there will be no conclusions.

General Affairs Council (GAC): 13 September

The GAC, chaired by the Belgian presidency, will predominantly cover final preparations for the September European Council which will discuss EU relations with strategic powers and include a Heads lunch discussion on economic governance.

President Van Rompuy will join Ministers over lunch where we will stress the importance of having substantive foreign policy outcomes at the September European Council. The GAC will also take a first look at the October European Council which will review President Van Rompuy's economic governance taskforce, prepare for the Cancun meeting on climate change and November's G20 meeting in South Korea.

European Council: 16 September

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will report to the House following the meeting of the Council.

HEALTH

National Programme for IT

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): The National Programme for IT is being reconfigured to reflect the changes described in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and the outcome of the cross-Government review of ICT projects initiated in May.

A departmental review of the National Programme for IT has concluded that we deliver best value for taxpayers by retaining a national infrastructure and applications whilst devolving leadership of IT development to NHS organisations on the principle of connected systems and interoperability with a plural system of suppliers.

The programme has delivered a national infrastructure for the NHS, and a number of successful national applications such as choose and book, the picture archiving and communications (digital imaging) system, and the electronic prescription service should now be integrated with the running of current health services.

The remaining work of the programme largely involves local systems and services, and the Government believe these should now be driven by local NHS organisations. Localised decision making and responsibility will create fresh ways of ensuring that clinicians and patients are involved in planning and delivering front line care and driving change. This reflects the coalition Government's commitment to ending top-down government.

The new approach to implementation will be modular, allowing NHS organisations to introduce smaller, more manageable change, in line with their business requirements and capacity. NHS services will be the customers of a more plural IT supplier base, embodying the core assumption of connecting all systems together rather than replacing all systems.

This approach will also address the delays, particularly in the acute sector, that resulted from the national programme's previous focus on complete system replacement. It will allow NHS trusts to retain existing systems that meet modern standards, and move forward in a way that best fits their own circumstances.

An appropriate structure for health informatics is a key element of the organisational design work currently underway following the publication of "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". The direction of travel being announced today for IT services very much reflects the key theme of the White Paper, of bringing decisions closer to the front line. It follows that the national programme will no longer be run as a centralised programme. Some elements will need to continue to be nationally managed and it is expected that new structures will be fully in place by April 2012.

Existing contracts will be honoured and it is vital that their value be maximised. However, by moving IT systems closer to the frontline, it is expected to make additional savings of £700 million, on top of the £600 million announced by the previous Administration in December 2009. These savings will mean that the total cost of the programme will be reduced significantly from the original forecast of £12.7 billion for combined central and local spending to £11.4 billion.

A separate review of the summary care record is currently underway, incorporating two elements: what content the summary electronic record should hold and make available for sharing across the health system; and whether the processes by which patients are able to withhold their consent are as clear and simple as possible. This review is expected to report by the end of September.

Reciprocal Health Agreement (UK and Isle of Man)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): Following discussions between the Department, the Isle of Man Government and the devolved Administrations, a new reciprocal health agreement between the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man will come into effect from 1 October 2010.

The new agreement will put the current temporary arrangements on a permanent footing meaning that UK residents visiting the Isle of Man will receive free, state provided health care, as will Isle of Man residents visiting the UK.

Under the agreement, no public funds will change hands and this brings the Isle of Man into line with other agreements that the UK has with a number of non-European Economic Area countries.

The new agreement represents a sensible and logical conclusion and provides certainty for travellers on temporary visits between the UK and Isle of Man.

HOME DEPARTMENT

UK Border Agency (Biometric Provision)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Home Secretary announced the cancellation of ID cards and a halt to work on second biometric passports on 27 May 2010. UKBA has now renegotiated one of the key contracts that supported this work, saving £50 million. Using the restructured contract UKBA will build the immigration and asylum biometric system (IABS). This system will strengthen our ability to control the entry of foreign nationals into the United Kingdom and identify those who pose a risk to our country. Those who have previously been deported, or committed a criminal offence, or been turned down for a visa will find it much harder to enter the UK.

Following the Home Secretary's announcement, Government reviewed the future use of all contracts let in connection with ID cards and second biometric passports. One of the relevant contracts is for the provision of a database of fingerprints and facial images. This contract, titled the national identity assurance service (NIAS) also supports key UKBA initiatives for the control of immigration and asylum. UKBA has been able to save £50 million from the contract price by removing components that stored data on UK nationals, and which are no longer needed.

Using the revised contract UKBA will completely modernise our ability to use biometrics to protect our borders. The new system is scheduled for delivery by IBM at the end of 2011 and will support the checking of biometric visas, registration cards for asylum seekers and biometric residence permits. It will replace an existing system that was first commissioned in 2000 and is now nearing its design capacity. The new system is faster, more accurate and more resilient. It can also be expanded to cater for future immigration applications, for example streamlined border entry processes. The revised contract is worth £191 million over seven years.

Immigration and Nationality Services (Charges)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am announcing proposals to change the fees for immigration and nationality applications made to the UK Border Agency. The Government review these fees on a regular basis and makes appropriate changes as necessary.

The Chancellor's emergency Budget set out the state of the nation's finances and demonstrated the very difficult choices that must be made to reduce the budget deficit. As part of that, the Government have looked again at the contribution made towards the costs of running an immigration system by the users of that system, balanced against those costs met by the UK taxpayer and we believe proposals to increase fees at this time are in the best interests of the UK. Securing the border brings with it an unavoidable core of cost, especially as we seek to improve customer service for visa applicants: something which we believe is important in the efficient running of the UK economy.

We set some fees above the administrative cost of providing the service. This allows us to generate revenue which is used to fund the UK immigration system and to set certain fees below cost recovery to support wider Government objectives. The revenue generated will continue to strengthen our capability in underpinning technology and process improvement. For transparency, I have included details of the estimated unit cost for each route, so that it is clear the degree to which individual routes are set above or below cost.

I will shortly lay two sets of regulations in Parliament to effect fee increases and the table sets out details of all the proposed increases. The table includes indicative unit costs for each application for 2010-11. The unit cost is the estimated average cost to UK Border Agency of processing each application. Although our unit costs are not fixed over the course of the financial year, we publish unit costs to enable Members to see which fees we set over cost and by how much. Further details of all fees changes will be outlined in the explanatory memoranda accompanying the regulations.

Regulations to set fees at or below the cost of processing are subject to the negative parliamentary procedure and I propose these fees will increase from 1 October 2010. Where we charge a fee that is set above the processing cost, the regulations are subject to the affirmative parliamentary process, and I aim for these fees to come into effect in November, subject to parliamentary timetabling.

I believe our proposals continue to strike the right balance between maintaining secure and effective border controls, and ensuring that our fees structure does not inhibit the UK's ability to attract those migrants and visitors who most benefit the UK. In principle it is right that those who benefit most from the immigration system should bear a higher share of the contribution to the running of the system.

Full details on how to apply for all of these services will be provided on our website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Fees to be Implemented from 1 October 2010

Non PBS Visas

		Current Fees	*New Proposal*
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Main applicant*
Visit visa - short	£140	£68	£70
Certificate of Entitlement	£245	£220	£245
Transit Visa	£94	£47	£47
Vignette Transfer Fee	£93	£75	£93
Call Out/Out of Hours Fee	134/hr	£130/Hr up to Max £939/day	£130/Hr up to Max £939/day

PBS Visas

		Current Fees	*New Proposal*
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Main applicant*
Tier 1 (Transition)	£332	£256	£332
Tier 1 (Transition) CESC	£332	£235	£300
Tier 1 Post Study	£344	£315	£344
Tier 4	£242	£199	£220
Tier 5	£173	£128	£130
Tier 5 CESC	£173	£112	£120

Nationality Applications - Migrants In UK

		Current Fees		*New Proposal*	
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*
Renunciation of Nationality	£208	£208	N/A	£208	N/A
Nationality Right of Abode	£150	£143	N/A	£150	N/A
Nationality Reissued Certificate	£178	£76	N/A	£80	N/A
Nationality Reconsiderations	£100	£100	N/A	£100	N/A
Status Letter (Nationality)	£107	£76	N/A	£80	N/A
Non-Acquisition Letter (Nationality)	£107	£76	N/A	£80	N/A

Non PBS Routes - Migrants In UK

		Current Fees		*New Proposal*	
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*
Transfer of Conditions Postal	£381	£169	£16	£200	£50
Travel Documents Adult (CoT)	£246	£220	N/A	£220	N/A
Travel Documents Adult CTD	£246	£77.50	N/A	£77.50	N/A
Travel Documents Child (CoT)	£231	£138	N/A	£138	N/A
Travel Documents Child CTD	£255	£49	N/A	£49	N/A
Replacement BRP	£35	£30	N/A	£30	N/A
Call Out/ Out of Hours Fee	134/hr	£130/Hr up to Max £939/day	N/A	£130/Hr up to Max £939/day	N/A
Work Permit Technical Changes	£116	£20	N/A	£20	N/A

PBS Routes Migrants in UK

		Current Fees		*New Proposal*	
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*
Tier 4 - Postal	£357	£357	£80	£357	£100
Tier 5 - Postal	£359	£128	£12	£130	£30
Tier 5 - Postal CESC	£380	£112	£11	£120	£30

PBS Sponsorship Products

Products	*Unit Cost*	*Current Fees*	*New Proposal*
Tier 2 Small Sponsor Licence	£880	£300	£300
Tier 4 Sponsor Licence	£950	£400	£400
Tier 5 Sponsor Licence	£880	£400	£400
Tiers 2 & 4 Small Sponsor	£950	£400	£400
Tiers 2 & 5 Small Sponsor	£880	£400	£400
Tiers 4 & 5 Sponsor Licence	£950	£400	£400
Tiers 2 & 4 & 5 Small Sponsor	£950	£400	£400
Tier 2 Medium /Large Sponsor Licence, where they already hold Tier 4 &/or 5 Licence	£950	£600	£600
Tier 4 &/or 5 Sponsor Licence, where they already hold Tier 2 Small Sponsor Licence	£950	£100	£100
Tier 4 Highly Trusted Sponsor Licence	£950	£400	£400
Sponsor Action Plan	£1,100	£600	£1,000
Tier 5 COS	£25	£10	£10
Tier 4 CAS	£25	£10	£10

CESC = Council of Europe Social Charter Nationals

Fees to be Implemented from November 2010

Non PBS Visas

		Current Fees	*New Proposal*
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Main applicant*
Visit visa - long 2 year	£146	£230	£245
Visit visa - long 5 year	£141	£420	£450
Visit visa- long 10 year	£155	£610	£650
Settlement	£249	£644	£750
Settlement - Dependant Relative	£272	£1,680	£1,680
Other Visa.	£115	£230	£245

PBS Visas

		Current Fees	*New Proposal*
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Main applicant*
Tier 1 (Gen, Investor, Ent)	£332	£690	£750
Tier 1 (Gen & Ent) CESC	£332	£629	£700
Tier 2	£197	£270	£350
Tier 2 CESC	£196	£250	£300

Nationality Applications - Migrants In UK

		Current Fees		*New Proposal*	
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*
Naturalisation 6 (1) Single *	£208	£735	N/A	£780	N/A
Naturalisation 6 (1) Joint *	£231	£930	N/A	£1010	N/A
Naturalisation 6 (2) *	£208	£735	N/A	£780	N/A
Nationality Registration Adult *	£208	£550	N/A	£580	N/A
Nationality Registration Single Minor	£208	£470	N/A	£500	N/A
Nationality Registration Multiple Minors	£255	£567	£97	£600	£150

*£80 per person for the Citizenship Ceremony is included in these fees.

Non PBS Routes - Migrants In UK

		Current Fees		*New Proposal*	
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*
ILR Postal	£341	£840	£129	£900	£250
ILR PEO	£256	£1,095	£154	£1,250	£350
ILR Postal CESC	£341	£767	£121	£850	£250
ILR PEO CESC	£256	£992	£144	£1,100	£300
ILR Dependant Relative Postal	£341	£1,680	N/A	£1,680	N/A
ILR Dependant Relative PEO	£256	£1,930	N/A	£2,050	N/A
LTR Non Student Postal Main	£419	£475	£92	£500	£150

Non PBS Routes - Migrants In UK

		Current Fees		*New Proposal*	
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*
LTR Non Student PEO Main	£348	£730	£118	£800	£200
FLR (IED) (Postal)	£210	£400	£85	£500	£150
FLR(IED)(PEO)	£210	£650	£110	£800	£200
FLR (BUS) (Postal)	£210	£800	£125	£850	£250
Transfer of Conditions PEO	£341	£578	£57	£600	£150
Mobile Case working (Premium+)	£1,982	£15,000	N/A	£15,000	N/A
Employment LTR outside PBS Postal	£419	£475	£92	£500	£150
Employment LTR outside PBS PEO	£348	£730	£118	£800	£200

PBS Routes - Migrants In UK

		Current Fees		*New Proposal*	
Products	*Unit Cost*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*	*Main applicant*	*Dependant*
Tier 1 General, Investor & Ent Postal	£317	£840	£129	£850	£250
Tier 1 General, Investor & Ent PEO	£288	£1,095	£154	£1,150	£300
Tier 1 General/Ent - Postal CESC	£317	£767	£121	£770	£250
Tier 1 General/Ent PEO CESC	£288	£992	£144	£1,000	£300
Tier 1 (Post Study) - Postal	£317	£550	£100	£550	£150
Tier 1 (Post Study) - PEO	£325	£800	£125	£850	£250
Tier 1 Transition Postal	£259	£408	£85	£500	£150
Tier 1 Transition PEO	£275	£663	£111	£700	£200
Tier 2 - Postal	£344	£475	£92	£500	£150
Tier 2 - PEO	£330	£730	£118	£800	£200
Tier 2 - Postal CESC	£344	£434	£88	£450	£150
Tier 2-PEO CESC	£330	£669	£111	£700	£200
Tier 4-PEO	£374	£628	£107	£650	£150
Tier 5 - PEO	£369	£578	£57	£600	£150
Tier 5-PEO CESC	£380	£521	£52	£550	£150

PBS Sponsorship Products

Products	*Unit Cost*	*Current Fees*	*New Proposal*
Tier 2 Medium /Large Sponsor Licence	£880	£1,000	£1,000
Tiers 2 & 5 Medium /Large Sponsor	£880	£1,000	£1,000
Tiers 2 & 5 Medium /Large Sponsor	£880	£1,000	£1,000
Tiers 2 &4 & 5 Medium /Large Sponsor	£950	£1,000	£1,000
Tier 2 COS	£25	£170	£170

CESC = Council of Europe Social Charter Nationals

WALES

National Assembly for Wales (Referendum on Law-making Powers)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): The National Assembly for Wales passed a resolution on 9 February 2010 calling for a referendum under the terms of the Government of Wales Act 2006. The First Minister notified my predecessor of this resolution on 17 February 2010.

I have a statutory duty to consult the Electoral Commission on the question that will be included in the draft referendum order. I referred a question proposed by the Wales Office Referendum Project Board to the Electoral Commission on 23 June 2010. The commission has conducted a thorough assessment of the preamble and question, including carrying out public opinion research, gathering views from interested parties and seeking advice from experts on plain language and accessibility in English and Welsh. It published its findings and recommendations on 2 September 2010.

I welcome the objectivity and independence that the Electoral Commission has brought to the process. It has suggested changes that take into account the generally low level of public awareness of issues and terminology relating to the referendum encountered during the testing process. I have discussed the conclusions of the report with the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister and, with their agreement, have decided to accept the commission's recommended revision of the question and its preamble.

I will lay the draft order before Parliament shortly for consideration by both Houses, and my intention remains for the referendum in Wales to take place in the first quarter of next year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 13 September 2010

DEFENCE

HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Deployment (Afghanistan)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): The Secretary of State for Defence has endorsed the deployment of elements of NATO's Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) to Afghanistan from January 2011 to January 2012.

HQ ARRC is one of NATO's nine Graduated Readiness Forces (Land) (GRF(L)), standing headquarters which provide augmentation, on a rotational basis, to the ISAF Joint Command in Kabul. HQ ARRC's personnel will take on the augmentation role from elements of the French-led GRF(L) that are currently deployed and will be replaced in turn by staff from the Eurocorps GRF(L) and the Spanish GRF(L).

HQ ARRC is a UK-led multinational headquarters staffed by personnel from 15 allied nations. In the order of 250 headquarters' staff will deploy at any one time, of which up to 189 will be UK. As a NATO deployment of NATO-assigned personnel, the UK contribution will not be considered as part of the UK's established and enduring force level, which remains at 9,500.

The deployment of elements of HQ ARRC will ensure the operational effectiveness of the ISAF Joint Command throughout 2011 and demonstrates the UK's continued commitment both to NATO and to the international mission in Afghanistan.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food and Environment Research Agency

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I have set the Food and Environment Research Agency—FERA—the following performance targets for 2010-11:

Value for Money, Financial Performance and Efficiency

To demonstrate that the year on year planned savings from the establishment of FERA continue to be achieved.

> Achievement of the financial savings as defined in the agency merger cost-benefit statement.

To meet agreed efficiency targets for 2010-11 and achieve full economic cost recovery for regulatory services from April 2011.

> To achieve a balanced budget and to meet the financial and efficiency targets set for the agency consistently demonstrating value for money.

Customers (Internal and External)

To support sustainable food production through the provision of internationally respected, trusted, independent and impartial advice to both Government and external customers.

> Reported against measures agreed with the corporate customer, and baselined against the 2009-10 customer satisfaction survey, to achieve for Government customers, all in the "very" or "fairly satisfied" categories.
>
> Reported against measures agreed with the corporate customer, to establish a baseline for non-Government customers against the 2009-10 customer satisfaction surveys.
>
> Both measures will be underpinned by a continuous improvement process driven by project feedback gained through the year and reported to the Strategic Advisory Board.

Operations/Policy Delivery

Regulation, Policy and Risk

To support a strong and sustainable economy through the delivery of effective policy outcomes and reduce the regulatory burden on industry.

> Delivering of contracted work with DEFRA and other Government Departments (OGD) within agreed deadlines and budgets.
>
> Achieving delivery within the monthly RAG report of 100% in any one quarter of green/amber or better for all policy-related annexes of the DEFRA/FERA service level agreement (SLA).
>
> Measurable improvements in achievement of inspection targets such that infraction is avoided.
>
> Implementation of key recommended actions arising from Hampton implementation review.

Research and Development

To deliver outputs from strategic and applied research, scientific services, and environmental monitoring and surveillance work to agreed deadlines, quality standards and formats.

> Meet all project milestones, deliver within agreed budgets and publish reports in accordance with agreed dates and formats.
>
> Within the monthly RAG report, deliver all within each quarter of projects to green/amber standard or above for all evidence/research based annexes within the DEFRA/FERA SLA agreement.
>
> To maintain (appropriate) scientific quality standards as demonstrated by independent audits for example ISO 9001 etc.
>
> Published research reports to meet or exceed the expectations of DEFRA/OGD customer needs as supported by feedback from them

Capacity and Capability

To develop DEFRA'S and the Home Office's incident response capability and to demonstrate the robustness of FERA business continuity and contingency plans.

> Chemical Biological Radioactive Nuclear (CBRN) services to deliver projects to time, cost and agreed outcomes as specified in the DEFRA/FERA SLA annex number 5.
>
> Developing FERA business continuity and contingency plans and moving to alignment with BS25999.

Develop and maintain a culture of ownership and accountability that is appropriately led, and that values everyone for their contribution.

> Achieve a 3% increase in the staff engagement measure as compared to the baseline from the 2009-2010 Government-wide staff survey
>
> Provide appropriate and targeted coaching and staff development programmes to maximise staff potential in the support of agency objectives

Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate

Drive value through synergies across the FERA estate that maximise the exploitation of assets.

> Meet the delivery targets of the FERA sustainable development action plan.
>
> To maximise the value of the Sand Hutton site with the aim of attracting other organisations to occupy a minimum area of 200 square metres.

To meet the Departments' sustainability targets as applied to science/laboratory based agencies.

To produce a water usage reduction five-year action plan.

Further details are given in the FERA business plan for 2010-11, a copy of which has been placed on the FERA website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Union (Forthcoming First Session Legislation)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): There has been a profound disconnection between the will of the British people and the decisions taken in their name by the British Government in respect of the European Union. This Government are determined to reconnect with the British people by making themselves more accountable for the decisions they take in relation to how the EU develops. We plan to decentralise the power from the Government to the British people, so the people can make the big decisions on the direction of the EU. This Government are committed to allowing the British people to have their say on any future proposals to transfer powers from Britain to Brussels.

Her Majesty's Gracious Speech set out that the Government will bring forward a Bill later in this session which would ensure that in future this Parliament and the British people have their say on any proposed transfer of powers to the European Union. I want to update the House at this stage on the progress made so far in preparing this legislation.

The Government will introduce a Bill which would require that:

(a) any proposed future EU treaty, agreed by all EU member states' Governments, including the UK Government, which sought to transfer areas of power or competence from the United Kingdom to the European Union would be subject to a referendum of the British people; and,

(b) the use of ratchet clauses or passerelles, provisions in the existing EU Treaties, which allow the rules of the EU to be modified or expand without the need for a formal treaty change, would require an Act of Parliament before the Government could agree to its use.

In addition, I set out in my statement to the House of 6 July, *Official Report*, column 6-7WS, that the forthcoming Bill would also make provision to enable the ratification by the UK of the EU transitional protocol concerning the composition of the European Parliament, in accordance with section 5 of the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008.

Other EU member states, such as Ireland, France and Denmark already require referendums on changes to the EU treaties in certain circumstances. Our legislation will set out in detail the circumstances in which a referendum would be required, and how Ministers would inform Parliament and the public of their decision as to whether a referendum should be held and the clear reasons for their decision. These formal ministerial decisions would be subject to judicial review.

The referendum requirement, or lock, would not catch all amendments or treaty changes. The lock would cover any proposed transfers of competence—the EU's ability to act in a given area—between the UK and the EU; and transfers of power, such as the giving up of UK national vetoes and moving to majority voting in significant areas, such as in common foreign and security policy. But treaty changes which do not transfer competence or power from the UK to the EU would not be subject to a referendum. For example, accession treaties that transfer competences and power from the acceding country to the EU, and which only amend treaty provisions to the extent necessary to facilitate the accession, do not transfer competence or power from the UK to the EU, and so consequently would not be subject to a referendum. The transitional protocol on the composition of the European Parliament, which would temporarily amend the number of MEPs, does not transfer any competence or power from the UK to the EU and so consequently would not be subject to a referendum.

The coalition programme says that the Government will ensure that there will be no transfer of competence or power from the UK to the EU during this Parliament; and so there will be no such referendum during this Parliament. A referendum would be required only if the Government supported a proposed change and if that change transferred power or competence from the UK to the EU, and would be held before the Government ratify such a change, or in the case of major ratchet clauses, agree formally to the use of the clause in the Council. As any EU treaty needs the unanimous agreement of all EU member states including the UK, where the Government oppose any proposed treaty change, a referendum would not be required.

The coalition agreement contains a clear commitment that this Government will not join, or prepare to join, the Euro in this Parliament; nor will this Government agree to the UK's participation in the establishment of any European Public Prosecutor. Furthermore, this Government will ensure that any future proposal to do either of these will require a referendum of the British people. In addition, any proposal which would mean the UK giving up its border controls, or any proposal to adopt a common EU defence policy, would also require a referendum of the British people before the Government could agree.

The Government will propose in this legislation that an Act of Parliament is required before ratchet clauses are put into effect. This will give Parliament more power over the decisions being taken by the Government. Germany has a very similar policy already in place: to give the German Parliament more of a say over EU decision-making, Germany has identified some areas that require legislation or parliamentary approval either before or following adoption by the EU of these ratchet clauses.

There is no one agreed definition of a ratchet clause; some provide for a modification of the EU treaties without recourse to formal treaty change, others are one-way options already in the treaties which EU member states can decide together to exercise and which allow existing EU competence or powers to expand. Examples include clauses which would add to what can be done within existing areas of EU competence, such as the ability to add to the existing rights of EU citizens; and clauses on the composition or procedures of EU institutions and bodies, such as a change to the number of European Commissioners. Where a ratchet clause would amount to the transfer of an area of competence or power from the UK to the EU, such as the clause which would allow certain decisions in common foreign and security policy to be taken by majority voting rather than by unanimity, we will also propose subjecting that ratchet clause to a referendum of the British people before the UK can agree to its use.

This Bill would allow the UK to continue to play a strong and positive role in the EU (just as their arrangements allow other member states to do so) while increasing the accountability and democratic legitimacy of the EU. This Bill would ensure that the British people are able properly to have their say on any future transfers of competence or power from the UK to the European Union.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Sessions

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): The Fixed-term Parliaments Bill proposes that parliamentary general elections will, ordinarily, take place on the first Thursday in May, every five years. One of the benefits of this proposal is the greater certainty it brings to the parliamentary timetable. As a consequence, the Government believe that it would be appropriate to move towards five 12-month sessions over a Parliament, beginning and ending in the spring. This has the advantage of avoiding a final fifth session of only a few months, which restricts the ability of Parliament to consider a full legislative programme.

Under this proposal, and subject to the passage of the Bill, Her Majesty's Gracious Speech on the occasion of the state opening of Parliament will, in future, ordinarily take place in the spring, rather than in the autumn.

In order to ensure a smooth transition, the Government have decided that the current session of Parliament will run until around Easter 2012. The next state opening of Parliament will therefore take place shortly afterwards. In line with proceedings on the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill, the Government will then review the options for moving onto spring to spring annual sessions.

I intend to give the House as much notice as possible of future proposed recess dates and will issue a calendar of the future sitting days as soon as is practicable.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 14 September 2010

DEFENCE

Army Inspector's Review (Detainee Handling)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): The Army Inspector, who reports directly to the Chief of the General Staff, was commissioned in early 2010 to conduct a review of the implementation of policy, training and conduct of detainee handling.

All three services and the Permanent Joint Headquarters are involved in detainee handling in the land environment, and the review has consulted widely. It has taken evidence from soldiers and commanders in Afghanistan as well as staff involved in policy, doctrine, legal advice, training and the planning and conduct of operations. The review team also included an independent member, Mark Lewindon, a retired senior civilian police officer with long experience of police detention practices and other relevant fields.

The Chief of the General Staff reported the outcome of the review to Ministers during the summer recess. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library. The key findings can be summarised as follows:

> a. The review has found no evidence to suggest that pre-deployment and in-theatre training are failing to prepare forces to carry out detainee handling in accordance with applicable law and policy. The systems in place for current operations are essentially sound.
>
> b. On operations in Afghanistan, commanders are clearly focused on this issue; governance mechanisms are in place to monitor and assure detainee handling processes, with any allegations of improper behaviour by UK forces (including complaints by the detainees themselves) being formally investigated.
>
> c. Nevertheless, there are areas in which there is room for improvement. The review makes 31 tactical-level recommendations that should be seen as improvements to a system that is now working, rather than as mending a broken system. It also notes that a number of actions are already underway.
>
> d. The review also recognises that further work is underway on more strategic issues:
>
> i. The importance of a higher governance structure in the Ministry of Defence that holds to account those individuals responsible for delivering the various aspects of the detainee handling capability.
>
> ii. The importance of embedding into every soldier, from his or her earliest training, an understanding of the principles and importance of detainee handling, so that it is seen as a mainstream military skill rather than a matter for specialists.
>
> iii. That there may be benefit in greater transparency and impartial assurance open to public scrutiny, over and above the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Defence Board and Ministers have accepted the conclusions and recommendations of the review. Some of them have resource implications which will not be easy to absorb in the current financial climate, and which will have to be considered against competing priorities; we intend to press ahead with implementation of those recommendations without significant resource implications as quickly as we can.

The review has been disclosed to the Baha Mousa public inquiry, as part of the Department's evidence for the final stages of the inquiry.

Grob Tutor (Service Inquiry)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I wish to inform the House today of the findings of the Royal Air Force service inquiry into the loss of Grob Tutor, G-BYXR, on 14 June 2009 in Oxfordshire. Tragically, the volunteer reserve pilot, Flight Lieutenant Mike Blee, and Combined Cadet Force (CCF) cadet, Nicholas Rice, were killed. Our deepest sympathies remain with their families and friends.

The purpose of a service inquiry is to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it; it does not seek to apportion blame. The service inquiry was convened on 15 June 2009 and has now presented its findings. The service inquiry found that on the afternoon of the 14 June 2009, Grob Tutor G-BYXR, departed from RAF Benson, to conduct an air experience flight for the CCF cadet. The aircraft was involved in a mid-air collision with a civilian standard Cirrus glider. The civilian glider pilot parachuted to safety with only minor injuries.

The service inquiry was able to identify the sequence of airborne events and concluded that the cause of the accident was the controlled flight of Grob Tutor G-BYXR into the glider. Five contributory factors were identified including the medical condition of the pilot and supervision arrangements. The RAF has apologised privately to the bereaved families for the shortcomings in its supervisory processes and I wish to restate that apology today.

The service inquiry panel made a total of 18 recommendations primarily relating to procedures, equipment and training. Twelve of these recommendations have already been implemented and the remaining six recommendations are under active consideration.

A redacted version of the inquiry findings will be placed in the Library of the House today. It will also be made available on the MOD internet site and can be found by following the link below:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/BoardsOfInquiry/serviceinquiryinvestigatingtheaccidenttotutorgbyxr.htm

Service Complaints Commissioner's Second Annual Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I am pleased to place in the Library of the House, the Ministry of Defence's formal response to the Service Complaints Commissioner's (SCC) second annual report on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the service complaints system.

The MOD accepts the SCC's 10 new recommendations, three updated recommendations and two new objectives. The formal response sets out how the MOD proposes to address the recommendations and what we will be doing in the coming months.

Progress made against the recommendations in the 2008 annual report has done much to improve awareness of the service complaints process and brought some important organisational change. We shall maintain and build on that progress in the coming year as we address the recommendations in the 2009 report, further improving on our current system and increasing confidence in it among our service personnel.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Equine Infectious Anaemia

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I wish to inform the House that on 11 September 2010 the chief veterinary officer for the United Kingdom confirmed equine infectious anaemia (EIA) in one horse in Devon after the owner requested a private vet to examine a sick horse.

The premises are currently under disease control restrictions and the infected horse has been humanely destroyed.

The horse had been in this country for two years and became ill only very recently. Two other horses on the premises are being tested for evidence of infection. The local authority has put in place notices at the relevant points advising horse owners not to exercise their horses in the area.

There is currently no evidence of a link between this case in Devon and the case of EIA confirmed in Northumberland on 7 September. As part of our control measures we will be undertaking a detailed epidemiological investigation.

All remaining horses on the premises in Northumberland have now tested negative for EIA, and movement restrictions remain in place. The horses are required to have two negative tests for equine infectious anaemia carried out three months apart before restrictions can be lifted.

The risk of further spread among horses is considered by experts to be very low, but this will be kept under review pending further epidemiological investigation. Expert advice from the Health Protection Agency is that EIA is not a risk to human health and that there is no evidence that this incident presents a risk to the local communities.

This is the third case of equine infectious anaemia in horses this year. Two of these cases were imported horses, and the third, most recent, case was detected by the owner. Prior to 2010 there had been no confirmed cases since 1976. This shows the success of our post-import testing regime, but also highlights the need for horse owners and keepers to remain vigilant of signs of disease and immediately notify any suspicion of EIA to their vet who should then report any signs of exotic disease to the local Animal Health Office.

JUSTICE

Bribery Act 2010

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): On 20 July I announced my intention to conduct a public consultation on the form and content of guidance to be published under section 9 of the Bribery Act before it comes into force in April 2011. I am pleased to announce that this public consultation commences today with the publication by the Ministry of Justice of a consultation paper "Consultation on guidance about commercial organisations preventing bribery (section 9 of the Bribery Act 2010)".

This consultation paper seeks views on draft guidance about procedures that commercial organisations can put in place to prevent persons associated with them from bribing. The draft guidance proposes six general principles that are designed to be applicable across all sectors and for all types and size of business. It is intended that these general principles will aid businesses to formulate procedures appropriate to their particular circumstances should they choose to do so.

As I made clear in my statement of 20 July, *Official Report*, columns 11-12WS, our concern is that the formulation of the guidance to be published under section 9 is informed by the wealth of expertise currently available. To that end we are also holding a number of open discussion forums in all parts of the United Kingdom during the consultation period to further encourage the sharing of views on what is being proposed.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and are available from today on the Ministry of Justice website

(http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm)

along with further details on how to respond and on the open discussion forums referred to above. I believe that this consultation will provide the basis for the publication of effective but flexible guidance on bribery prevention for commercial organisations seeking to ensure that they conduct business competitively while maintaining high standards of integrity and transparency.

Trustee Exemption Clauses

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am pleased to announce the Government's acceptance of the recommendations made by the Law Commission in its 2006 report "Trustee Exemption Clauses" (Law Com 301).

Briefly, the Law Commission recommended that the Government should promote the adoption by professional and regulatory bodies in the trust industry in England and Wales of a model rule of practice relating to the inclusion in trust documents of clauses limiting the liability of trustees for the consequences of their actions. The recommended model rule provides that a paid trustee or trust draftsman proposing to include such a clause should take reasonable steps to ensure that the person creating the trust is aware of the meaning and effect of the clause before the trust is created.

Model rules to this effect have already been widely adopted by leading regulatory and professional bodies but the Government will be promoting further uptake by writing directly to the relevant regulatory and professional bodies to urge them to adopt the approach recommended by the Law Commission.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 15 September 2010

TREASURY

Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant Bill

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant Bill has today been introduced into the House of Commons.

This Bill would end eligibility for child trust funds and abolish the health in pregnancy grant from January 2011, and repeal the Saving Gateway Accounts Act 2009.

The Government announced on 24 May that they would reduce and then stop Government payments to child trust funds. The Child Trust Funds (Amendment No. 3) Regulations, made on 22 July, have already reduced Government payments. The Government also announced at the Budget on 22 June that the health in pregnancy grant would be abolished, and that the introduction of the saving gateway would be cancelled.

All of these measures will contribute to the reduction of the UK's budget deficit. The changes being made to child trust funds, including through this Bill; the abolition of the health in pregnancy grant; and the cancellation of the saving gateway's introduction are expected to save £370 million in 2010-11, and around £800 million in future years.

The Government have also published today an initial assessment of the equality impacts of the measures included in the Bill, and an initial estimate of the impacts of the changes being made to child trust funds upon account providers. Copies of these documents have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available from the Vote Office.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Horserace Totalisator Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose): The Government announced in the Budget on 22 June that they would over the next 12 months resolve the future of the Tote in a way that secures value for the taxpayer and which recognises the support the Tote currently provides to the racing industry.

In line with that objective, the Government are now preparing to launch an open market process in the late autumn in which they will invite proposals from interested parties. This process will be open to all organisations who have an interest in the Tote, and the Government expect to be in a position to update the House early in the new year.

The Government will continue to liaise closely with the board of the Tote and with racing interests as this process unfolds.

DEFENCE

Ex-Service Personnel (Prison Population)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, the hon. Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt) and I wish to make the following joint statement.

On 6 January 2010, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice—under the previous Administration—announced in a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, the findings of an initial study by the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) which estimated that 3% of the prison population in England and Wales are ex-regular service personnel. DASA has since revised their estimate to 3.5% to take into account the incompleteness of their service leavers database which did not include reliable data for those who had left the services prior to 1979 (Navy), 1973 (Army) and 1969 (RAF).

DASA has also determined the demographic and service variables of veterans in prison. They are predominantly male (99.6%), British nationals (96.7%)), ex-Army (77%) other rank (92%), with 50% being aged 45 and over. Only 1% are recorded as officers and 7% had no rank status attached to their records. DASA calculated that for veterans in prison the time between discharge from the armed forces and the start of their current sentence ranged from 0 to 41 years. 41% began their current sentence 10 years after leaving the services, with only 6% having started their current sentence within a year of being discharged. However, DASA estimates that for males aged 18 to 54, the proportion of the ex-regular service personnel in prison was 30% less than the proportion of the general population in the same age group.

The DASA follow-on report on the demographic and service variables of veterans in prison is being placed in the Library of the House and published in full on their website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub
=VETERANS_IN_PRISON

DASA's report provides a detailed statistical analysis of the demographic variables of veterans in prison. It does not explore why veterans come into contact with the criminal justice system. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defence will consider what further work might usefully be commissioned to understand the reasons behind this.

Independent Medical Expert Group (Armed Forces Compensation Scheme)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): As a result of Lord Boyce's review of the armed forces compensation scheme, published in February 2010, an independent medical expert group was established. Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor CBE FMedSci has led this group, which comprises senior licensed consultants drawn from relevant specialties, representatives of ex-service organisations and serving members of the armed forces.

The group's role is to advise on the appropriate levels of compensation for a number of specific injuries, illnesses and diseases highlighted in the AFCS review as being areas requiring further detailed work. The group is providing advice on a range of complex issues, including:

- Genital injury
- Paired injuries
- Hearing loss and acoustic trauma
- Non-freezing cold injury
- Mental health
- Brain injury
- Spinal cord injury

There are several important topics that the group has begun that require more detailed analysis, including on mental health issues. As a result of this, I am going to extend the group in its current form to March 2012. I will review the group's status in 12 months' time. Therefore I am renaming the group the "Independent Medical Expert Group".

Ofsted Report (Armed Forces Initial Training)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Today Ofsted publishes its report on welfare and duty of care in armed forces initial training, copies of which I have placed in the Library of the House. Over the course of a year, Ofsted inspected 10 initial training establishments, meeting with recruits, trainees and staff to assess the effectiveness of the care and welfare arrangements.

Training to join the front line in the armed forces is recognised as a challenge for recruits and trainees and the staff who look after them, which is why providing a safe and supportive environment is essential if the training is to be fully effective. I am pleased that Ofsted regards most recruits and trainees as well motivated, thoughtful and confident individuals who feel safe and well supported.

Ofsted reports that where problems exist, they are not related to the quality of welfare and duty of care support, but to structure, management systems and staffing issues and it is these aspects of provision that are judged as being "inadequate" in two locations. These concerns are being addressed and followed up through the chain of command.

The impact of operations on the training environment is noted by Ofsted in the report and this, combined with the current resource climate, means that we must strive to continue our efforts to improve ensuring that the impact of change is evaluated and the effect on recruits and trainees remains positive.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Informal Energy Council Meeting

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I represented the United Kingdom at the EU Informal Energy Council in Brussels on 6 to 7 September 2010.

The Council began with a discussion of energy consumer policy, focusing on the issue of vulnerable consumers. There was broad agreement on the need for greater transparency of information and on the importance of technology, including the use of smart meters, to allow consumers to make better choices. This discussion will form the basis of a report benchmarking national policies for discussion at the December Energy Council.

The Council continued with a debate on energy infrastructure, including the development of a low-carbon grid. Member states referred to issues of planning and the length of time needed to get certain permissions as particular obstacles to infrastructure development. The debate moved on to financing, with widespread agreement that the majority of the energy infrastructure investment which would be needed across Europe in coming years would need to come from the private sector but that there was a role for the EU in facilitating that investment and providing finance in exceptional circumstances. I noted the importance of regional projects, such as the North sea offshore grid. The Commission confirmed that it intended to produce a communication on infrastructure in November, focusing on barriers to investment and key priorities for the next two decades.

The Energy Commissioner then presented the Commission's initial position on the EU's response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. He emphasised the importance of minimising the risks of a similar incident in the EU by ensuring the highest standards of safety across Europe. He noted that the EU already had a framework of safety regulations in place and great experience of drilling, particularly in the North sea.

The Council ended with a working lunch where Ministers discussed energy efficiency.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): Bovine TB is having a devastating effect on many farm businesses and families. The situation is steadily getting worse—the number of animals slaughtered each year is unacceptable and more farms are affected as the disease spreads across the country. The area of England affected by bovine TB has grown from isolated pockets in the late 1980s to cover large areas of the West and South West of England. 6.4% of herds in England were under bovine TB restriction at the end of 2009. The figure was 14.3% in the South West. In 2009, over 25,000 cattle were slaughtered due to TB in England.

The cost to Government of controlling bovine TB in England was over £63 million in 2009-10 (excluding scientific research). These costs are rising year by year and there is a strong case for early effective action to turn this around. Furthermore this has been raised as a concern by others across Europe and we are under increasing pressure from the European Commission to strengthen our controls.

Eradicating bovine TB is our long-term goal, but it is clear that the approach to date has failed. We need to take additional measures urgently to stop the disease spreading and to start to reverse the rising trend. The farming industry, veterinary profession and Government need to work in partnership to achieve this.

There is no single solution to tackling bovine TB—we need to use every tool in the toolbox. Cattle measures will remain the foundation of our bovine TB control programme but we will not succeed in eliminating the disease in cattle unless we also tackle the disease in badgers. The science is clear, there is no doubt that badgers are a reservoir of the disease and transmit bovine TB to cattle. No other country in the world with a similar reservoir in wildlife has eradicated TB from cattle without stringent wildlife control measures.

That is why the coalition Government have committed, as part of a package of measures, to develop affordable options for a carefully managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine TB in cattle. I am today launching a consultation on the Government's proposed approach to badger control in England.

Badger culling has the potential to reduce bovine TB in cattle by rapidly reducing the overall number of infected badgers, thus reducing the rate of transmission of the disease to cattle. The main body of evidence on the impact badger culling has on incidence of bovine TB in cattle is the randomised badger culling trial (RBCT) which took place between 1998 and 2007. The results of this major Government-funded trial demonstrate that badger culling, done on a sufficient scale, in a widespread, co-ordinated and efficient way, and over a sustained period of time, would reduce the incidence of bovine TB in cattle in high incidence areas. Analysis of the results covering the whole period from the beginning of culling to July 2010 show that the beneficial effects of culling persist over this time and that the initial detrimental effect seen at the edge of the culled area had disappeared by 12 to 18 months after culling stopped.

The proposal on which I am launching the consultation today is to issue licences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 to enable farmers and landowners to cull badgers, at their own expense. Under existing arrangements farmers and landowners are already able to apply for licences to vaccinate badgers. Under the Government's new proposal, they will be able to use vaccination either on its own or in combination with culling. The Government's proposal will empower farmers to take control of reducing the risks of transmission from the wildlife reservoir at the local level.

Licences would be subject to strict criteria to ensure that the badger control measures are carried out effectively, humanely, and with high regard to animal welfare. This will include a requirement that any culling must take place over a minimum area of 150km^2 so we can be confident it will have a net beneficial effect. This means that we would expect to receive licence applications from groups of famers and landowners rather than individuals. Applicants will also need to demonstrate that they have considered taking further steps to minimise the potential detrimental effect at the edge of a culling area. Culling licences will only permit culling by cage-trapping and shooting, and by shooting free-running badgers, carried out by trained, competent operators with the appropriate licences. We have ruled out gassing and snaring on the basis that we do not currently have sufficient evidence to demonstrate that they are humane and effective methods of culling.

I have looked carefully at the potential for using badger vaccination. Based on veterinary advice and the available scientific evidence my assessment is that vaccination will not be as effective as culling in quickly lowering the weight of infection in the badger population. Vaccination does not guarantee that all badgers are fully protected from infection and it would take some time to develop immunity within a local population. In addition, the fact that the first injectable badger vaccine was only licensed in March 2010 means that there is only very limited experience of using vaccination in the field and no hard evidence on the contribution badger vaccination would make to reducing the disease in cattle. However, vaccination is still likely to reduce disease risk and have greater disease control benefits than taking no action to tackle bovine TB in badgers. In addition, when used in combination with culling, vaccination could help to mitigate the perturbation effects of culling.

The Government's highest priority are to reduce the deficit and it is vital that any new policy is affordable. This is why we expect the farming industry to bear the direct costs of badger control. Government will fund the licensing operation and monitor the impacts of the policy.

I do not approach these issues lightly. No one wants to kill badgers, but the scientific evidence and veterinary advice clearly suggests that this is the quickest and most effective way to bring down the weight of infection in the badger population and in turn reduce the rate of transmission of bovine TB to cattle. We also do not want to see culling for longer than is necessary and we intend to review how the policy is working after four years.

I have met with the Badger trust and separately with other interested stakeholders to explain the evidence and rationale behind the proposal. All have been offered the opportunity to discuss the consultation in further detail with DEFRA.

The consultation is available on DEFRA's website (www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-control-measures/index.htm) from today and will close on 8 December 2010. Copies are also available in the Libraries of both Houses. A decision on this policy will be made early in 2011, taking account of views provided during this consultation, and the available scientific and economic evidence.

The consultation document also highlights that we are planning a number of changes to existing cattle measures to ensure that that they are better targeted on the basis of disease risk. Most existing cattle measures will remain firmly in place; in some cases we will be looking to tighten controls where we know there is a higher disease risk; and in some cases we will be looking to reduce burdens on farmers but only where we are confident that this will not increase disease risk.

I am today publishing the report of a review of pre-movement testing which is available on the DEFRA website (www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/premovement/index.htm). This has concluded that the current policy has been successful in reducing bovine TB spread, provided a significant benefit for the taxpayer and a net benefit for the farming industry. The pre-movement testing policy will therefore remain in place, though we plan to look again at the current exemptions to see whether they are still necessary.

We will be making some minor changes to TB testing with immediate effect. These include reducing the testing of new and reformed herds, stopping the testing of young calves, rationalising post-breakdown testing in low-risk herds where bovine TB is not confirmed and rationalising the testing of herds neighbouring a confirmed TB breakdown. These changes will reduce costs to the taxpayer and the burden on famers without increasing disease risk, and will ensure we are not gold-plating EU legal requirements.

Over the next few months I also intend to make changes to TB terminology, strengthen controls on high risk unconfirmed breakdowns, reduce the number of tracing tests and extend the use of gamma interferon testing to all confirmed breakdown herds in the two yearly testing areas. And I will ensure better support for TB restricted cattle farmers by enhancing their options for selling surplus stock. Further details of these changes will be announced in due course.

The coalition Government are committed to dealing with this terrible disease and reducing its burden on farmers and the taxpayer as quickly as possible. A decision on our approach will be taken following the consultation on badger control being launched today. I intend to publish a comprehensive and balanced bovine TB eradication programme early in 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Britain's Values in a Networked World

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to make the House aware that I will deliver a speech entitled "Britain's Values in a Networked World" at the Old Hall and Crypt, Lincoln's Inn today. This is the third in a series of four major policy speeches which set out the Government's active and activist approach to foreign policy.

In this speech I will address how this Government will pursue a foreign policy that remains true to our values while promoting Britain's security and prosperity. As part of this approach, I will be making three specific announcements.

First, I am determined to strengthen the FCO's institutional capability on human rights both at home and overseas, building on the work of previous Governments. Following the publication of the consolidated guidance to intelligence officers and service personnel, the FCO will be re-issuing its guidance to its own staff on the need to report any alleged incidents of torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment that they encounter in the course of their work. I will make this guidance public.

Secondly, I have decided to convene an advisory group on human rights to include key NGOs, independent experts and others. It will meet regularly and have direct access to Ministers. This group will ensure that we will benefit from outside advice on the conduct of our policy.

Thirdly, as I explained to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 8 September the FCO will strengthen its human rights reporting and make it available to a wider audience. Going forward, we will report to Parliament and the public, both through a Command Paper and by making best use of the internet.

A copy of my speech will be placed in the Library of the House and published on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk) by 16 September.

Court of Justice (Appointment of Lithuanian Judge)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): At a conference of representatives of Governments of member states on 29 September 2010 the appointment of a Lithuanian judge to the Court of Justice is to be considered.

The nomination is in respect of: Mr Egidijus Jarašiunas.

Having consulted with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and Attorney-General, the Foreign Secretary agrees to the appointment.

Sino-British Joint Declaration (Hong Kong)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The latest report on the implementation of the "Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong" was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk). The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010. I commend the report to the House.

JUSTICE

Interpretation and Translation Services (Justice Sector)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): The Government are proposing to make changes to the provision of interpretation and translation services across the justice sector. We need to reduce waste and cut costs but we shall do so in a way that safeguards quality.

Articles 5 and 6 of the European convention on human rights and fundamental freedoms (ECHR) give the right to interpretation for those who are arrested and who face criminal court proceedings. In addition, we expect the European Union to adopt a directive in the autumn intended to ensure that the rights enshrined in the ECHR are implemented consistently across all member states.

Currently, the non-binding National Agreement on Arrangements for the Use of Interpreters, Translators and Language Service Professionals in Investigations and Proceedings within the Criminal Justice System sets out how criminal justice organisations are expected to source interpreters and translators in England and Wales. The National Agreement gives the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) as the first source for foreign language interpreters and translators and the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People Directory (now called the National Register of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People (NRCPD)) for British Sign Language and other language services for deaf and deafblind people. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 codes of practice C and H also require that whenever possible the police should use interpreters from these registers when interviewing suspects.

Members of staff in justice organisations identify interpreters using the registers and then contact them directly. Once the assignment is complete, invoices are processed individually. This is an inefficient, labour-intensive process.

The Ministry of Justice is engaging with the market to explore how interpretation and translation can be delivered more efficiently. The exercise is a "competitive dialogue", which allows us to explore with potential providers the best way for them to meet our requirements. Although we are not able to be certain what the result of this exercise will be, we are anticipating a "framework agreement" with a number of preferred suppliers. This will set out a template or "call-off" contract. Justice organisations will then easily be able to use the "call-off" contract to meet their specific requirements. The quality of interpretation will be ensured through the terms of the contracts.

At this stage, we expect most police forces, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunal Service, the National Offender Management Service and the Crown Prosecution Service to use the framework. We expect the framework agreement to be signed in early 2011.

A move to contracts will eventually render the National Agreement redundant and we expect to withdraw it in due course. We aim however to retain elements of the agreement as good practice guidance and many of its fundamental principles will form the basis of the agreements with suppliers.

Potential suppliers were invited to lodge an expression of interest in a letter issued on 10 August. A notice was issued in the Official Journal of the European Union on 23 August. The procurement "pre-qualification questionnaire" was made available on 24 August. The deadline for return of the questionnaire was 13 September. The competitive dialogue process with short-listed tenderers will start in October.

The Government are clear that there is scope for greater efficiency in this area of their business and it is important that savings are made. But in taking this work forward it will ensure that the quality of interpretation and translation in police stations, in the courts and elsewhere is maintained.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DFID's Programme in Bangladesh

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): Today we are publishing by Command Paper the Government response to the former International Development Committee's report on "DFID's Programme in Bangladesh". The report was published on 4 March 2010.

The report was positive about DFID's programme in Bangladesh. It commends DFID's work on governance, extreme poverty and the balance we are striking between support to service delivery and capacity building. The Minister of State for International Development visited Bangladesh 12 to 14 July 2010, reinforcing the UK's commitment to helping Bangladesh reduce poverty and deal with the impacts of climate change.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Arrangements for Handling National Security

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The Government have received and welcomed the second annual report of Lord Carlile of Berriew on the operation of arrangements for handling national security matters in Northern Ireland.

The report finds the now established national security arrangements free from major structural problems, more efficient than analogous arrangements elsewhere, and in a more acceptable human rights context than anywhere comparable.

Consistent with his terms of reference, the report was submitted to both the Home Secretary, and to me.

The Home Secretary and I welcome the content of this report which I am today bringing before Parliament. I have placed copies in the House Library.

Independent Monitoring Commission (24th Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I have received the 24th report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report has been made under articles 4 and 7 of the International Agreement that established the Commission. It reports on the murder of Bobby Moffett in Belfast on 28 May 2010. I have considered the content of the report and I am today laying it before Parliament.

The IMC concludes that:

> "The murder was committed by members of the UVF acting as such;
>
> These members had sanction at central leadership level. The fact that there was no subsequent condemnation of the killing by the leadership means that the UVF has in effect adopted the consequences of the murder;
>
> There were two main reasons for the murder and the way in which it was committed: to stop Mr Moffett's perceived flouting of UVF authority, and to send a message to the organisation and the community that this authority was not to be challenged;
>
> Senior leadership in the UVF could have prevented the murder had it determined to do so".

In May 2007 the UVF issued a statement renouncing violence and committing to a process of transformation from a military to a civilian organisation. This was a major turning point for them. Last year they also took the step of decommissioning.

The IMC observes that

> "the murder does not blind us to the progress the UVF has made hitherto or of itself mean that the process [of transformation] will be reversed. But it does call into question the reference in the May 2007 statement to becoming a civilian organisation and shows that when faced with what it saw as a challenge to its standing and authority, the organisation reverted to physical force".

The IMC goes on to say that

> "If this murder is to mark the end of the use of physical force it will require a more profound change of culture and attitude by the leadership and the organisation".

The murder of Mr Moffett was brutal and shocking. The conclusions of the IMC in respect of the behaviour of the UVF leadership are a challenge to the UVF leadership to renew their determination to deliver fully on their collective commitment to transform their organisation.

TRANSPORT

Equality Act 2010

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I have today published guidance notes about the sections of the Equality Act 2010 relating to taxis and private hire vehicles which are coming into force.

The Equality Act 2010 contains new provisions which will, when commenced, tighten the law by placing duties on taxi and PHV drivers to provide assistance to people in wheelchairs. Before these duties come into force, we are making provision for those drivers who themselves suffer from a condition which makes it difficult to provide assistance, to apply for an exemption from these duties. Drivers will be able to apply for these exemptions from October. I have today published guidance to local authorities and drivers to this effect so that they can prepare accordingly.

Also from October, the sections of the Equality Act 2010 which oblige taxi and PHV drivers and PHV operators to carry guide dogs will be commenced. This obligation is already prescribed in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, so in practice there will be no change for drivers. However, the guidance I have published today will reassure drivers and licensing authorities that any existing exemption notices which refer to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 will still be valid once the Equality Act sections are commenced.

The guidance notes have been published on the Department's website and will be brought to the attention of all the taxi/licensing authorities and the principal taxi/PHV organisations.

Copies of the guidance notes have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 16 September 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Foreign Affairs Council (10 September 2010)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The Foreign Affairs Council was held on 10 September in Brussels. I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Economic Partnership Agreements

This was an opportunity for the Commission to discuss the disappointing progress made on economic partnership agreements (EPAs), with a number of options explored to help increase momentum. I reinforced the UK position that EPAs should be development-friendly and we should avoid any negative implications of the agreements wherever possible. The UK will work closely with the Commission in developing thinking and approach going forward.

South Korea Free Trade Agreement

The presidency sought Ministers' approval and signature of this free trade agreement.

Italy called for provisional application of the FTA to be delayed by at least 12 months, arguing that the current agreement was not balanced, particularly in the automotive and textiles sectors, and a proper understanding should be reached with the European Parliament on the safeguard regulation before the FTA is implemented.

I emphasised that the EU needed to defend its credibility and avoid any damaging read-across to other multilateral and bilateral negotiations. I also highlighted the benefits of the FTA to many Italian business sectors.

No agreement was reached on 10 September. On 15 September, Korea stated it would accept Italy's request to delay provisional application of the FTA until 1 July 2011. The signature of the agreement is scheduled to take place on 6 October 2010.

Investment:

The Commission outlined the approach in its communication on the future of the European Union's international investment policy, stressing the need to prioritise countries for new EU-investment agreements. Despite widespread criticism of the regulation, particularly on the need for certainty for businesses, several member states supported the overall approach to investment policy as set out in the communication.

AOB: Pakistan

Following the catastrophic flooding which continues to cause considerable devastation in Pakistan, we had the opportunity to discuss plans for a comprehensive package of measures to assist Pakistan's recovery, including substantive measures on trade. The UK has been at the forefront of negotiations pushing to improve Pakistan's market access to the EU with immediate effect. I personally spoke to my EU counterparts and the Commission in the margins of the meeting, and will continue to push strongly for the EU to play a leading role in Pakistan's recovery.

TREASURY

Finance (No.2) Bill 2010

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Finance Bill will be published on Thursday 30 September.

Explanatory notes on the Bill will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and placed in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Copies of the explanatory notes will be available on the Treasury's website.

Investment Firms

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Today the Government are publishing a consultation document on a special administration regime for investment firms. Copies of the document entitled, "Special Administration Regime for Investment Firms" have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
consult_investment_banks2.htm.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): The BBC Trust has proposed forgoing the planned rise in the licence fee in 2011-12. The Government welcome the proposal and have decided that there will be no increase in the licence fee on 1 April 2011.

A decision about 2012-13 will be taken as part of the next funding settlement.

DEFENCE

Unsolicited Mail (Christmas)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I wish to inform the House about the unsolicited mail campaign Ministry of Defence (MOD) will be running in the lead-up to Christmas (which is 100 days from today).

This Government are dedicated to the care and welfare of the men and women of our armed forces, particularly those on operations in Afghanistan. This is reflected in the first class deployed welfare package which is constantly being improved to maximise the support we give to our armed forces on operations. A vital part of that package is ensuring the safe and timely delivery of personal mail from family and friends. To that end, we have a policy in place which encourages the generous British public to support our troops in ways other than by sending unsolicited goodwill parcels through the mail system.

By way of background, during the build-up to Christmas 2007, the volume of unsolicited goodwill parcels overwhelmed the in-theatre postal and logistic capacity, resulting in a considerable delay to personal mail. British Forces Post Office (BFPO) estimates it will handle around 19,200 unsolicited parcels over Christmas this year (the eight-week period between mid-October and mid-December) as opposed to 6,400 over a "normal" eight-week period. In addition to the impact on personal mail, delivering unsolicited packages over the "final mile" to forward operating bases and patrol bases puts increased pressure on essential in-theatre resources. Additional helicopters and road convoys are required, both of which take essential transport assets away from their primary task and place our personnel at increased personal danger.

It is for these reasons that the MOD will be encouraging the British public to show their support through one of the recognised MOD service charities rather than sending unsolicited goodwill parcels. All service personnel on operations over Christmas will receive a seasonal gift box from the MOD endorsed charity, "uk4u Thanks!". The charity works closely with the MOD, using free space in the existing supply chain to deliver the boxes over a period of time, so without impacting on the normal mail system. Other charities which help to support our troops include Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), Afghan Heroes, Support our Soldiers and Operation Shoebox.

This is not an easy issue and will seem counter-intuitive to many, but I ask for your full support in directing the public towards MOD recognised charities rather than sending unsolicited mail as a means of expressing their much valued support to our deployed personnel.

Mull of Kintyre Accident (Independent Review)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): On 26 May this year, during the debate on the Queen's Speech, I confirmed that we would be honouring the pledge we made in opposition to hold an independent review of the evidence relating to the tragic accident on 2 June 1994 when a Chinook helicopter crashed at the Mull of Kintyre, killing all 29 people on board.

I am pleased to announce that the right hon. Lord Philip has agreed to conduct the review. Lord Philip, who retired in 2007 as a Lord of Session and Member of the Inner House and is a Privy Counsellor, brings a wealth of judicial experience to the task. He will be assisted in his work by a panel of ~~three~~ Privy Counsellors, all distinguished Parliamentarians: the Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP, the Rt Hon the Lord Forsyth of Drumlean and the Rt Hon the Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke.

The terms of reference of the review will be:

> To examine all available evidence relating to the findings of the board of inquiry into the fatal accident at the Mull of Kintyre on 2 June 1994; and to report conclusions to the Secretary of State for Defence as soon as possible.

The review will be primarily an examination of the written record of the board of inquiry and of any other related evidence which it considers may throw light on the findings of the board. Lord Philip will, however, be happy to receive representations from individuals and groups with knowledge of the issues involved. Any person wishing to make contact with the review should write in the first instance to its Secretary, Mr Alex Passa, at The Mull of Kintyre Review, 1 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7HW.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Executive Agency Performance Targets (2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I have set Animal Health (AH) the following performance targets for 2010-11:

Value for money

Increased operational efficiency.

> Produce a detailed, specific and costed road map for change to Animal Health's delivery model going forward designed to enable savings of at least 10%.
>
> Ensure that services are delivered in the most efficient way possible, centralising administrative functions where appropriate, capitalising on technology and using standardised processes to help ensure quality.
>
> Work with policy customers and others to deliver changes as part of the operational efficiency programme.
>
> Achieve a 5% (£3 million) efficiency saving by the end of the 2010-11 financial year.

Customer Impact

As part of the wider Animal Health compliance and enforcement strategy, encourage end user behavioural change through the development of more accessible, effective advice and guidance and through more direct and consistent relationships with key stakeholders.

> To create a clear explanation of regulatory policies and procedures for end-user customers. To help them understand the law, its associated policies and what responsibilities they have as owners/keepers. The headline advice and guidance will be compact and written in language which is easy to read but provides links to greater detail should it be required. The advice and guidance will make use of a variety of media that will enable AH to reach the target audience.
>
> Demonstrating the provision of clear and accessible advice and guidance is an important precursor to successful criminal prosecution of non-compliant members of the regulated community.
>
> Work with official veterinarians to improve effectiveness and consistency of their interventions.
>
> Engage with official veterinarians in module 6 of business reform programme.

Capability and capacity

Improve preparedness and resilience for responding to outbreaks of disease.

> Roll out new tracings module through the business reform programme, enabling more efficient, faster and consistent tracing of potential transmitters of disease.
>
> Reduce the reliance on unstable legacy IT systems through the development and implementation of SAM modules and releases.
>
> Working with our policy customers and operational partners, plan, design and deliver a programme of local and regional exercises across Great Britain to rehearse, enhance, embed and assure readiness for outbreaks of exotic notifiable disease. The programme will include objectives that test the Animal Health operational model, multiple outbreak centres and cross-border activities. To be delivered in conjunction with operational partners.
>
> Deliver a structured programme to assure the readiness of central and local delivery to respond to an outbreak.

Further details are given in the AH business plan for 2010-11, a copy of which has been placed on the AH website.

I have set the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) the following performance targets for 2010-11:

Customer

Meet contracted research milestones. (see footnote)[1]

Deliver final research reports on time. (see footnote)[1]

Deliver contracted surveillance deliverables to time. (see footnote)[1]

Achieve a score of 90% in the VLA customer satisfaction survey.

Maintain appropriate third party quality accreditations.

Value for Money Measures & Financial Performance Efficiency

Achieve full cost recovery.

Capacity & Capability

Conduct one table top notifiable disease simulation exercise to test current laboratory response capability, identify gaps and implement action plan.

Operations

To continue to improve the VLA's safety record using 2007-8 as a baseline.

Sustainability/Greener Society

Prepare a plan for water usage reduction for the 2010-11 to 2016-17 7% target.

Further details are given in the VLA business plan for 2010-11, a copy of which has been placed on the VLA website.

I have set the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) the following performance targets for 2010-11:

Value for Money

Achieve cost recovery and demonstrate progress in the three elements of value for money—economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Customers

At least 70% of customers in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry to consider the level of service provided by the VMD to be good or excellent and for the VMD to act on areas identified requiring improvement within the confines of the available resources.

Policy customers in DEFRA and OGDs consider the level of service provided by the VMD to be satisfactory.

Operations/Policy Delivery

Authorise veterinary medicines according to legislative requirements and to monitor their ongoing safety and efficacy and to take proportionate action.

Ensure that the regulatory system is effective and contributes to protecting animal, public and environmental health and encourage the responsible, safe and effective use of VMPs according to the legislative requirements through proportionate action, and act to detect and deter illegal use.

Capacity and Capability

Ensure the VMD utilises its funding streams efficiently to ensure that it maintains capability and capacity to deliver its business objectives and is fit for purpose.

Sustainability

Increase recycling by 4%.

Further details are given in the VMD business plan for 2010-11, a copy of which has been placed on the VMD website.

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[1] It is accepted that there may be mitigating circumstances for not meeting 100% in each case, and that such circumstances may be accepted as appropriate following discussions with the Chief Executive and the VLA Corporate Customer.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign Ministers and General Affairs Council (September 2010)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers "Gymnich" was held in Brussels on 10 and 11 September. The UK was represented by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. I represented the UK at the General Affairs Council (GAC) held in Brussels on 13 September.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GYMNICH

The meeting was chaired by the EU High Representative and Vice President of the Commission Baroness Ashton. The Gymnich is an informal meeting and, as such, no conclusions were adopted.

Pakistan

Baroness Ashton stressed the need for the EU to look strategically and comprehensively at Pakistan: not only as a humanitarian disaster, but also more broadly including institution-building, counter-terrorism, regional stability and nuclear security. Pakistan had always said that trade was the key to its relationship with the EU. The Commissioner for Development (Piebalgs) said the Development Co-operation Instrument had provision for €225 million for Pakistan for 2011-13. The Commissioner for Trade (De Gucht) set out options for trade-related assistance.

Foreign Ministers broadly shared Baroness Ashton's analysis and set out their initial views on De Gucht's trade options ahead of further discussions at the European Council (16 September).

Strategic Partnerships

Baroness Ashton set out her views on the EU's engagement with strategic powers, and in particular China. The Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs (Rehn) and the Commissioner for Climate Action (Hedegaard) set out priorities for the EU's engagement with China. The Foreign Secretary said the UK wanted the European Council to agree core principles for EU external action; emphasise the importance of trade in the EU's strategic partnerships; agree an approach to key emerging powers (particularly China and India in advance of summits later this year); and give direction to instruments of EU external action.

EU enlargement

Foreign Ministers from EU candidates countries—Macedonia, Turkey and Croatia (Iceland did not attend)—gave presentations on their respective membership bids and the development of stronger co-operation with the EU. The Commissioner for Enlargement (Füle) gave a broad assessment of progress being made by the candidates towards accession. In the following discussion there was consensus that EU diplomacy had been successful following the ruling on Kosovo's declaration of independence by the International Court of Justice.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAG)

The full text of all conclusions adopted, including "A" points, can be found at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/gemaff/116489.pdf

The GAC was chaired by the presidency, Belgian Foreign Minister Steven Vanackere. The President of the Council, Herman van Rompuy, joined the Council over lunch for a discussion on the agenda of the September and October European Councils.

Preparation for the September European Council

Ministers discussed the draft conclusions for the European Council. I stressed the need for these to put trade at the centre of the EU's external relationships, with China and India being of particular importance. I also emphasised the UK's wish for the European Council to agree conclusions on Pakistan that included commitments on humanitarian aid, development funding and trade measures.

There was also a discussion on strengthening economic governance. President van Rompuy will report to the European Council on 16 September on work completed by the taskforce set up at the request of the Council in March.

Preparation for the October European Council

Ministers were presented with a draft agenda for the European Council to be held on 28 and 29 October. The issues proposed are:

Economic policy The Council will receive a final report from van Rompuy's taskforce on economic governance.

G-20 — The Council aims to agree an EU position ahead of the summit in Seoul on 11 and 12 November.

Climate Change — The Council aims to prepare for the UN framework convention on climate change in Cancun on 29 November - 10 December.

EU-US — The Council aims to discuss the forthcoming EU-US summit on 20 November.

EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The presidency said that more time was needed for agreement between members states on the draft EU-Korea FTA. The intention was to try to reach agreement in time for the September European Council.

AOB

Under AOB, the Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration (Sefcovic) raised the common transparency register and codes of conduct for the Commission when interacting with lobbyists.

Iraq: Locally Engaged Staff Assistance Scheme

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In his statement of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 4-6WS, the former Foreign Secretary informed the House that the element of the ex gratia Iraq locally employed staff assistance scheme which applied to former employees would close on 19 May 2009 and that employing Departments and the Home Office would continue to review the scheme as applied to serving staff

Serving staff are those Iraqi staff employed on or after 8 August 2007. Former staff are those Iraqi staff whose employment terminated on or before 7 August 2007.

Together with my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Home Affairs, Defence and International Development, I have now reviewed the operation of the scheme, as it applies to serving staff.

Eligible serving staff, as defined under the scheme, are entitled to apply for either a financial package or resettlement in the UK. Over 250 serving staff have chosen the financial package. To date, 117 principal applicants and 241 dependants have been resettled via the scheme for serving staff

With the draw-down of the UK defence presence in Iraq, the Ministry of Defence no longer employs any Iraqi staff and their numbers accounted for the largest proportion of applicants under the scheme. As a result of this, in view of the declining rate of applications and the stabilisation of the security situation in Iraq, we consider that the time is right to close the scheme to new applications from serving staff. From today, only applications from serving staff who will qualify for either financial or resettlement benefits under the scheme on 12:00 noon Arabian standard time on 16 October 2010 and, thus, will have attained 12 month' continuous service by this date, will continue to be accepted. Further, such applications will cease to be accepted from 12:00 noon Arabian standard time on 16 January 2011.

Recently, there have been inquiries as to whether staff who received financial packages under the LESAS scheme are entitled to apply to switch to the resettlement option. We will permit those staff who accepted the financial package under either the scheme for former or serving staff to apply, in writing, for consideration for resettlement instead. The deadline for an application is 12:00 noon Arabian standard time on 16 November 2010. We will not consider applications: (a) received after that deadline; (b) from an individual who has previously been refused resettlement under either the schemes for former or serving employees; or (c) from an individual who has not repaid the financial package within eight weeks of applying for resettlement. A successful applicant will need to meet all the criteria for resettlement under the relevant scheme. Should an applicant be refused resettlement, they will be repaid the financial package. It should be noted that the now closed scheme for former employees had a cap of 600 places, with some places unfilled at the time of closure. So, applications to switch under that scheme will be subject to that cap.

We shall work with our missions in Iraq to ensure that full publicity is given to the closure of this scheme in the local media.

In conclusion, I must reinforce the enormous debt of gratitude we owe to our Iraqi staff for the dedication and commitment they have demonstrated across the board. We could not have made our contribution to the rebuilding of Iraq without their service and, in some cases, sacrifice. The scheme was designed to reflect this debt and I am pleased that it proved popular and effective.

Belgian Presidency Priorities

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I am keen to keep Members fully informed on the European Union. I would, therefore, like to draw Members' attention to a letter and note on the priorities of the Belgian presidency of the European Union, which has been placed in the Library of the House.

I have also deposited a copy of the Belgian presidency work plan, and a calendar of forthcoming events from the presidency.

Private Military and Security Companies

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The Government have reviewed options to regulate the private military and security company industry, with the aim of promoting high standards in the private military and security company industry internationally, and reducing the risk that the activities of private military and security companies might give rise to human rights or humanitarian law concerns, or have a negative impact on international security and stability or the UK's foreign policy goals.

Taking into account previous consultations, including the public consultation conducted by the previous Government, the Government have decided to:

a. Introduce robust regulation in the UK through a trade association based on a voluntary code of conduct agreed with and monitored by the Government;

b. Use their leverage as a key buyer of private military and security company services to promote compliance with the code; and,

c. Seek an international agreement on standards consistent with the UK code covering all aspects of private military and security company organisation and operation worldwide.

The Government will now:

a. Assess and decide the most suitable trade association to monitor and audit compliance of a UK code of conduct;

b. Agree an international code of conduct (an initiative led by the Swiss Government) for the private military and security company industry, and guiding principles for an accountability mechanism to support their implementation by the end of the year; and,

c. Incorporate agreed standards into all HM Government contracts with private military and security companies.

Our work will focus on ensuring that the code is effectively monitored and the industry is held accountable for its activities. The Government will review this policy two-years from its implementation. If they have not met their objective of raising standards of the industry, the Government will consider again alternative options.

In my speech, "Britain's values in a networked world", on 15 September, I stressed the importance of businesses upholding high standards when operating overseas. This approach supports that objective. It will also serve to strengthen international frameworks that contribute to human rights and international security.

HEALTH

NHS Parking

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): I am today publishing the Government's response to the recent public consultation on car parking at national health service hospitals issued by the previous Administration before the election.

That consultation set out proposals to introduce mandatory free parking for many inpatients and outpatients. Those proposals would cost the NHS in excess of £100 million. The impact assessment states that it would lead to a net disbenefit to patients valued at almost £200 million. This negative impact arises from substantial health benefits forgone from not investing this income in health-care, offset by lower financial benefits to favoured car park users. The impact also does not include environmental costs associated with the policy, which would also clearly be adverse. At a time when the NHS needs to make every penny of its budget count the Government cannot support such a proposal.

Moreover, the Government have embarked on a very clear strategy for the NHS that reduces central control and intervention in operational decisions, giving NHS managers the autonomy to make decisions that reflect the needs of their local community. Telling the NHS how to run their car parks would be inconsistent with this principle.

However, our strategy also puts patients at the centre of decision making, and supports patients to be able to make informed choices. It is clear from the consultation feedback that the parking policies and practices in some trusts fall short of these standards. Patients undergoing extended outpatient treatment, and long-stay inpatients, should not be further disadvantaged, and nor should their health needs be possibly compromised by high cumulative parking costs. A fair scale of concessionary rates should be offered, and all eligible patients should be fully informed and helped to take advantage of them. These standards are fundamental to patient-centred care and informed choice.

Through our announcement today we are:

ensuring that the NHS is made aware of patients' concerns;

asking trusts to work with local groups to examine their current policies and practices and ensure that they are genuinely fair;

emphasising the importance of promoting these fully to eligible patients, prior to and during their treatment; and

asking the NHS confederation, who already provide best practice guidance on parking policy, to engage further with parking providers and patient advocate groups to respond to the concerns identified through the consultation.

Local autonomy requires local accountability. It is for trust boards to ensure that their policy is fair and patient-centred, and has the support of its local community. The challenge now is for the NHS collectively and locally, to take action to deliver the fair access that their patients expect.

The Government's response and a summary of the responses to the consultation have been placed in the Library. Copies of the Government's response are also available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Policy (Correction to Written Answer)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in an answer given by the hon. Member for Tynemouth (Mr Campbell), in answer to parliamentary question 313016 on 3 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1264W.

The response indicated that eight fines had been issued in 2008 for the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children (section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003) with an average fine of £968.75.

I can confirm that in fact in 2008, four fines were issued for this offence, and the average fine amount was £1,713.

Control Order Powers

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

The future of the control order regime

As set out in the previous statement laid on 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 6WS, the Government are reviewing control orders as part of a wider review of counter-terrorist and security powers and measures. This review is ongoing and we will report the outcome of the review to Parliament in the autumn.

The exercise of the control order powers in the last quarter

As explained in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, two CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 June 2010 to 10 September 2010, one non-derogating control order has been made, with the permission of the court, but has not been served. Two control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act in this reporting period. Three control orders have been revoked during this reporting period. One control order was revoked because it was not possible to meet the disclosure test set out in the June 2009 House of Lords judgment (*AF & Others*) on article 6 (right to a fair trial) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Two control orders were revoked as they were no longer considered necessary.

In total, as of 10 September, there were nine control orders in force, all of which were in respect of British citizens. All of these control orders are non-derogating. Four individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas.

During this reporting period, one individual pleaded guilty to six counts of breaching his control order and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

During this reporting period, 56 modifications of control order obligations were made. Fourteen requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. One appeal has been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act. A right of appeal is also provided by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order or to modify any obligation under their order. During this reporting period three appeals have been lodged with the High Court under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act.

One judgment has been handed down in relation to substantive judicial review proceedings under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act during this reporting period. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AY*, [2010] EWHC 1860 (Admin) handed down on 26 July 2010, the court upheld the control order on the basis that there was and remained reasonable grounds for suspecting that AY was involved in terrorism-related activity, that it was and remained necessary for a control order to be imposed on him for purposes connected with protecting the public from a risk of terrorism and that each of the obligations in the control order was and remained necessary for purposes connected with preventing or restricting AY's involvement in terrorism-related activity. The court also considered and rejected the argument that an unsuccessful prosecution for a terrorism-related offence precludes the Secretary of State from making a control order on essentially the same material as that relied upon by the prosecution at trial.

One judgment has been handed down in relation to a modification appeal under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act during this reporting period. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. CA*, [2010] EWHC 2278 (QB) handed down on 10 September 2010, the court found that the relocation of CA to a different town was not proportionate because of his particular family circumstances.

One judgment has been handed down by the Court of Appeal during this reporting period. In *AN v. Secretary of State for the Home Department, Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AE and AF* [2010] EWCA Civ 869, handed down on 28 July 2010, the Court of Appeal dismissed the Secretary of State's appeal against the High Court's judgment of 18 January 2010 in relation to AE and AF and upheld AN's appeal against the High Court's judgment of 31 July 2009. The issue was what the appropriate remedy should be in control order cases where the Secretary of State elects not to make sufficient disclosure to comply with article 6 of the ECHR. The Court of Appeal found that the appropriate remedy in these circumstances is for the control order to be quashed from the date it was made and not for it to be revoked with effect from a date after the control order was served on the individual as the Secretary of State had sought to argue.

Most full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org/

Wanstead Flats (Olympics 2010)

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): The Home Office is today launching a public consultation on a proposed legislative reform order, made under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, to make a temporary amendment to the Epping Forest Act 1878. I am placing copies of the consultation paper in the Library of the House.

The proposed legislative reform order would allow a one-time, temporary and limited enclosure of land on Wanstead flats, in Epping Forest. This will be for the specific, time-limited purpose of housing a temporary muster, briefing and deployment centre during the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics to support the policing operation. Centres of this kind are a tried and tested feature of large scale police operations and will be essential in helping to deliver a safe, and secure games. No other suitable sites have been identified in this part of London.

The Government are clear that these proposals are dependent on the Epping Forest Act 1878 reverting to its full protection at the end of the proposed 120 day period. No lasting powers relating to Wanstead flats or Epping Forest would be conferred on the police or any other bodies as a result of this order. This will ensure that members of the public can continue to enjoy the full benefits of this open space in perpetuity. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) will pay the City of London corporation £170,000 in lieu of rent and this money will be used to ensure that users of Wanstead flats receive lasting benefits.

JUSTICE

Judiciary (England and Wales)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am announcing today proposals to bring the tribunals judiciary in England and Wales under the overall leadership of the Lord Chief Justice. The changes require primary legislation and I hope to include them in a Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

An announcement was made in March that the Ministry of Justice would be bringing together Her Majesty's Court Service and the Tribunals Service in a single, unified organisation. The new organisation will be established by 1 April 2011.

I subsequently agreed with the Lord Chief Justice and Senior President of Tribunals that in bringing together the administration of the courts and tribunals the current judicial structure should also be reviewed.

Our shared vision is to work towards a unified judiciary encompassing both courts and tribunals. This could be achieved, so far as concerns England and Wales, by transferring the statutory powers of the Senior President of Tribunals to the Lord Chief Justice, and creating a new office of Head of Tribunals Justice with a statutory obligation to protect and develop the distinct and innovative features of the tribunals.

The Senior President of Tribunals is a statutory role that has jurisdiction in both Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further, a number of important tribunal jurisdictions extend to one or both of those countries, and cross-border sittings are a normal part of the judicial work of many tribunal judges. I recognise the importance attached by them and the Senior President to this aspect of their work, and the advantages it offers to the interests of users and the efficiency of the system overall. I am in discussions with judicial leaders and with Scottish and Northern Ireland Ministers about whether and how we might transfer the Senior President's tribunal responsibilities to the Lord President and Lord Chief Justice of NI respectively. Any such transfer will wish to preserve the benefits of existing arrangements.

TRANSPORT

Strategic National Transport Corridors

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I am publishing today, 16 September, a consultation paper on proposals to amend the criteria defining strategic national corridors (SNCs). This will result in the identification of roads, including the A1 between Newcastle and the Scottish border, as being of national significance.

The strategic national corridors were established in 2009 to define the network over which the largest proportion of strategic traffic—that is traffic travelling between the 10 largest urban areas, 10 busiest ports and seven busiest airports in England—moves around the country. The original definition also provided for connectivity between the four nations of the United Kingdom, but there was no specific provision for connecting capital cities.

The Government believe that the routes linking Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast to the nearest urban strategic destination should be recognised for the strategic connectivity that they provide. For this reason I am today launching a consultation on proposals to change the definition, to explicitly include links with our capital cities.

As a result of this change we believe that two routes would be identified as having national significance: namely the A1 between its junction with the A19 north of Newcastle, and the Scottish border, providing a defined link to Edinburgh; and a route between Bootle and the Twelve Quays ferry terminal in Birkenhead, providing connectivity with Belfast. We have also set out information about alternatives to these routes which I invite consultees to consider. Routes linking the network with Cardiff were identified in 2009.

The consultation does not include any specific proposals to increase the capacity of these routes. However, the Department is considering the nature of the problems on the A1 north of Newcastle so that, as part of the spending review, Ministers will be in a position to consider these alongside other priorities in identifying those schemes and programmes that it will be proceeding with, consistent with resources available and the Government's objectives.

I am pleased to announce that the consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks, and invite everybody with an interest in the roads potentially affected to take part. A consultation document and instructions for responding can be found on the Department's website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Petitions

Monday 6 September 2010

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Taxibus Services (Plymouth)

The Petition of residents of the Plymouth, Moor View constituency and others,

Declares that the petitioners are unhappy with the decision to withdraw the taxibus service that serves the residents in the north of Plymouth; notes that residents in St Budeaux and Weston Mill use this bus to access their GP surgery, dentist, shops and other community facilities; and further declares that the withdrawal of this service will cause major inconvenience to residents.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage local authorities to support local taxibus services to avoid these vital public transport services being removed.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Alison Seabeck, Official Report,* 26 July 2010; Vol. 514, c. 834 .]

[P000847]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 16 August 2010:

The Government are aware of the important role that bus services play for those who have no access to a car, particularly in less accessible urban and rural areas The majority of bus services outside London—some 80%—are provided on a commercial basis by private operators and decisions on the extent and frequency of services and the type of vehicle used are mainly a matter for the commercial judgment of the operator concerned. Local authorities do have powers to subsidise bus services where these are not being provided commercially. It is essentially a matter for individual authorities to decide which services are most appropriate for support in their respective areas. I understand that Plymouth Council is aware of the concerns raised by residents over the withdrawal of these services.

In recognition of the particular needs of rural communities, specific funding has been provided to improve public transport in rural areas previously not well served. Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG) was introduced in 1998-99 for the provision of new or enhanced local bus services in England, this is allocated to local authorities on a population based formula. It is then for each authority to decide which services and communities to support. The total funding available for the financial year 2010-11 is £60 million which is now paid to local authorities as part of their area-based funding. The allocation to Plymouth City Council is £17,642. It is a matter for the authority how to make use of that funding.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Financial Assistance Scheme

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Stone in Staffordshire,

Declares that pensioners who have lost all or a greater part of the pension due to failed occupational pension schemes have not been properly compensated by the Government under the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) due to the failure of pensions regulation, as proven by the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the High Court; that at the very least the Government must provide 90% compensation, which is not eroded by regulations and current FAS failings; that indexation should fully reflect that provided by original schemes; that backdating should be to scheme Normal Retirement Age and not an arbitrary May 2004 cut-off date; that a higher tax-free cash limit should be provided, irrespective of scheme asset share, to be paid on request; that access on early retirement is made irrespective of ill health (with an actuarial adjustment); that recognises the pre-retirement scheme revaluation basis; that has the provision of meaningful benefit projections; that recognises the harmful effects of the earnings cap on long-serving members.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure those pensioners are properly compensated 90% or more of the true value of their pension through immediate amendment of the Financial Assistance Scheme.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr William Cash, Official Report,* Tuesday 23 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 217 .]

[P000771]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, received 9 August 2010:

The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) provides publicly funded support to those who have saved for their retirement throughout their employment and who have lost their pension as a result of the considerable level of under-funding of their pension scheme and the failure of their employer. The FAS delivers assistance to those whose defined benefit pension schemes began to wind up under-funded, between 1 January 1997 and, in general, 5 April 2005.

The FAS delivers assistance to members of over 900 different pension schemes and, as such, does not replicate each scheme's individual rules.

FAS Assistance is paid at a level of 90% of members' expected pension, that is, the pension accrued to the date their scheme began to wind up, including revaluation at a standard FAS rate up to normal retirement age. The structure of assistance takes account of existing statutory requirements, for example, the date of the introduction of a statutory requirement to provide indexation and the providing of cash lump sums broadly aligning with tax rules.

For those whose scheme asset share is greater than 90% and whose assets transfer to Government, the FAS assistance calculation will ensure that members receive the value of their share of their scheme's assets.

FAS assistance balances the need to provide a relevant safety net to pension scheme members with the cost to taxpayers, many of whom do not have occupational pensions.

Petition

Wednesday 8 September 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Blockade of Gaza

The Petition of residents of Trowbridge, and others,

Declares that the Israeli Army attacked a convoy of ships destined to deliver humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza; further declares that the six boats included over 600 peace activists from over 50 nations and 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid; notes that, in the aftermath of the attack, nine internationalists died and at least 20 were wounded; further declares that the humanitarian workers and peace activists were attempting to deliver assistance to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians; and further declares that the petitioners believe that this attack on civilians in international water attests to Israel's continued occupation of Gaza and that it is evidence of Israel's lack of commitment to a peaceful and viable solution for the Palestinian people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to condemn Israel's blockade of Gaza, to withhold all military financing of Israel, and to stop all trade until Israel shows a commitment to non-violence and peace.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000857]

Petitions

Thursday 9 September 2010

HEALTH

Blandford Community Hospital (Dorset)

The Petition of Mrs Jacqueline Stayt and Mrs Josephine Seath, residents of the North Dorset community and others,

Declares that they are concerned about the future of Portman Ward at Blandford Community Hospital, Dorset.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to encourage NHS Dorset to consider seriously the impact on the local community of proposed cuts to services at Blandford Hospital, in particular the proposed closure of Portman Ward, and to ensure that decisions affecting the hospital's future reflect the concerns and needs of patients, staff and the community at large.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Robert Walter, Official Report,* Monday 26 July 2010; Vol. 514, c. 836 .]

[P000851]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issues raised in the petition are local matters for Dorset Primary Care Trust and my Department will bring these to the attention of the South West Strategic Health Authority.

Lady Forester Community Nursing Home and Forester's Court

The Petition of the people of Much Wenlock

Declares that Lady Forester Community Nursing Home contains 15 single bedrooms and offers residents nursing care; notes that four of the places are funded by the local GP service through Shropshire Primary Care Trust; further notes that Forester's Court comprises 10 one bedroom apartments and provides very sheltered housing; and further declares that the petitioners are opposed to the proposed closure of both Lady Forester Community Nursing Home and Forester's Court.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to take steps to prevent the closure of Lady Forester Community Nursing Home and Forester's Court.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented, Official Report,* Thursday 22 July 2010; Vol. 514, c. 8P .]

[P000846]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

We understand that a potential buyer has been found for Lady Forester Community Nursing Home and that the home will, subject to successful negotiations, remain open.

Lady Forester Community Nursing Home is privately owned and operated by the ExtraCare Charitable Trust. The trust, in common with all independent care providers, is free to take its own decisions regarding the financial viability of the services it owns and operates. The Secretary of State for Health does not have the power to intervene if an owner decides, for whatever reason, to close or sell their care or nursing home. However, in the event of the closure of a care or nursing home, local council social services have a duty to assess the care needs of residents and, if appropriate, provide or arrange alternative care for them.

U

Petition

Tuesday 14 September 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Proposed development north of Holt Avenue (Adel, Leeds)

The Petition of residents of Adel and Wharfedale, the surrounding area, and others,

Declares that the petitioners have serious concerns about the previous Government's overly ambitious targets for housing; and further declares that the petitioners believe that these targets will lead to unwanted developments—for example, the proposed development for the land north of Holt Avenue in Adel.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to use all his powers to review the previous Government's targets for housing.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Greg Mulholland, Official Report, 6 July 2010; Vol. 513, c. 343.]*

[P000841]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

On 6 July 2010 the Secretary of State confirmed that Regional Strategies will be revoked. In the longer term the legal basis for Regional Strategies will be abolished through the "Localism Bill" that we are introducing in the current parliamentary session.

Leeds City Council is now responsible for establishing the right level of local housing provision in its area and identifying a long-term supply of housing land without the burden of regional housing targets. Authorities can decide to retain or to review the housing targets previously set out in the Regional Strategies. Leeds City Council agreed provisionally at Executive Board on 21 July 2010 to use a lower annual housing figure as set out in the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy. Decisions on progressing specific sites in its saved Development Plan and how to take these forward in a local spatial plan are of course matters for Leeds City Council and the local community.

New ways for local authorities to address strategic planning and infrastructure issues based on co-operation are being introduced. One step is that on 9 August the Housing Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), confirmed that councils who take action now to give planning consent and support the construction of new homes where they are needed and wanted will receive direct and substantial benefit for their actions. He urged councils to open up an honest and direct debate with the communities they serve about the benefits of building new homes in their area—how they can reap the benefits of development and not just the costs.

Local authorities should continue to collect and use reliable information to justify their housing supply policies and defend them at examination. They should do this in line with Government policy in Planning Policy Document No. 3 (PPS3). The abolition of Regional Strategies allows the council to review the housing numbers in its Local Development Framework Core Strategy before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The council will also be able to make decisions on planning applications for housing in the context of its reviewed targets, working with local communities, and if they go for growth now, will be able to reap the rewards. I believe this is a big step in decentralising power over housing and development back to local people, communities and local councils.

Petition

Wednesday 15 September 2010

Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 14 September 2010 but not read on the Floor

Sentences for Causing Death by Dangerous Driving

The Petition of Christine, Kevin and Victoria Shields and others,

Declares that the Petitioners' beloved daughter, Katie was killed on the A16 last year by a speeding driver; and that the offender received just two years for his crime.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government to introduce stiffer sentences for drivers who cause death by dangerous driving.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000861]

Petition

Thursday 16 September 2010

OBSERVATIONS

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Free Swimming (Wakefield)

The Petition of Mrs Priscilla Whisker and residents of Wakefield constituency, and others,

Declares that HM Government's decision to cut the previous Labour Government's free swimming scheme from 1 August 2010 will make it more difficult for under 16 and over 60 year olds to access swimming facilities in Wakefield; further declares that the scheme was part of the 2012 Olympics legacy to get more people involved in healthy activities; further declares that there are high levels of child obesity in Wakefield; and further declares that the cuts will disproportionately affect the health of poor people in Wakefield.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Government to recognise the value of encouraging young people to take regular exercise and to learn to swim; to recognise the important health benefits of swimming to children and people over 60; to reconsider the cuts to the Swim 4 Free local authority grant support; and to reinstate the Swim 4 Free grant support to local authorities from 1 August 2010.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mary Creagh, Official Report, Monday 26 July 2010; Vol. 514, c. 835.]*

[P000848]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport:

The Government understand the difficult circumstances some people now face in being able to access and afford regular swimming at their local pools. However, the unprecedented levels of debt facing the country have regrettably meant that the Government have had to take the difficult decision to end the Free Swimming Programme. The Government are aware of the popularity of the Free Swimming Programme and understand the disappointment this has caused. However, savings need to be made in all areas to ensure the Government can start to tackle the budget deficit the country is facing. Continuing to fund this programme did not represent good value for money.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) was commissioned in April 2009 to undertake an independent evaluation of the Free Swimming Programme in England. PwC were tasked with measuring the extent to which the Free Swimming Programme has increased the number of swims and the number of swimmers. Their report, which is available on the DCMS website, estimates that a high percentage of both adults (83%) and children (72%) would go swimming even if they had to pay.

The Government are aware of the health benefits which regular swimming brings. The evaluation did seek to compare the costs of the Programme with the economic benefits in terms of potential cost savings to the NHS. The results of this analysis suggest that the costs of the programme outweigh the benefits.

It is regrettable that the Government have had to take the decision to cease funding the Free Swimming Programme. However, this should not discourage individual local authorities from continuing to offer free or discounted swimming in their areas via membership schemes. It is for local authorities to decide whether or not they can continue to do so based on their own assessments of costs and affordability.

The Government are committed to the delivery of a meaningful London 2012 Olympics sporting legacy. Mass participation is one of the key strands of this legacy. Across Government, the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be used to encourage people to be more active. To deliver this, Sport England will focus on improving facility provision and developing sport at a community level. The Government have also set out plans to reform the National Lottery which should see an extra £50 million a year available to sport by 2012.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 6 September 2010

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on machinery of government changes, which of the changes will require legislation in order to have full effect. [12615]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the machinery of government changes explanatory document which I placed in the Library on 27 July 2010.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Caroline Flint: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* press officers and *(c)* special advisers in his Office accompanied him on his visit to the United States between 19 July 2010 and 23 July 2010. [12695]

The Prime Minister: As set out in the Ministerial Code, details of all my overseas travel will be published at least quarterly.

Gaza

Ian Austin: To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons he described Gaza as a prison camp; what advice he sought on his description before making it; and if he will make a statement. [12962]

The Prime Minister: The UK continues to press for peace in the middle east, and I welcome the resumption of peace talks in Washington. We and the international community have called for the blockade of Gaza to be lifted. I have therefore welcomed the change Israel has made to allow more goods to be transported into Gaza.

Iraq Conflict: Legal Opinion

Frank Dobson: To ask the Prime Minister what advice he has received on the legality of the invasion of Iraq. [11934]

The Prime Minister: The coalition Government have not asked for advice on the legality of the 2003 Iraq conflict.

Ministerial Duties: Prime Minister

Mr Bone: To ask the Prime Minister who would undertake his Prime Ministerial duties in circumstances in which he was unable to do so. [11735]

The Prime Minister: I will continue to undertake my duties as Prime Minister.

Oil Rigs: Libya

Robert Halfon: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings *(a)* his predecessor and *(b)* his predecessor's officials held with (i) BP and (ii) the government of Libya on oil drilling off the coast of Libya between July 2007 and March 2008. [12936]

The Prime Minister: I have asked the Cabinet Secretary to review all the papers relating to this issue, and we will report shortly on his conclusions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Manpower

Mr MacShane: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff the House of Commons Commission employed in the latest period for which figures are available. [12125]

Sir Stuart Bell: As at 30 June 2010, the House of Commons Commission employed 1,639 full-time equivalent staff, of whom 80 were temporary.

Departmental Publications

Mr MacShane: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the cost of editing and producing Commons Quarterly in the latest period for which figures are available. [12126]

Sir Stuart Bell: The estimated cost of editing and producing the July 2010 edition of Commons Quarterly was £2,091 or £1.39 per copy (for a print run of 1,500). This figure includes the cost of printing and distribution and an estimated proportion of the staff time spent on design and editing. The July edition, the first of the new Parliament, was longer than usual: the usual cost is lower. The publication, which began in 2009, replaced a number of separate departmental newsletters.

Palace of Westminster: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, by what date the House of Commons Commission expects all scaffolding to be removed from Commons Court in the Palace of Westminster; and if he will make a statement. [12613]

Sir Stuart Bell: This initial phase of the work to refurbish the cast iron roofs has progressed well and it is anticipated that the access scaffolding will be removed from Commons Court by the end of 2010.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Communication: Finance

Richard Burden: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much funding the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has allocated in respect of communications in the next 12 months. [9500]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA's allocated funding for communications in the next 12 months is £278,200. This is broken down as follows:

£232,200 staff costs (including basic salaries at £172,000, pension contributions and earnings related national insurance contributions (ERNIC));

£30,000 website maintenance;

£16,000 publications.

Departmental Sick Leave

Alison Seabeck: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have taken sick leave in each month of its operation; how many hours of work have been lost in consequence; and whether any temporary staff have been recruited to cover such absences. [12178]

Mr Charles Walker: A total of nine IPSA members of staff have taken sick leave since May 2010. The numbers of staff absent in each month and the consequent number of working hours lost is as follows:

May: One (five days or 37.5 hours)

June: Four (10 days or 75 hours)

July: Five (32 days or 1,200 hours).

IPSA has not recruited any temporary staff to cover sick absence.

ICT

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, which firm *(a)* developed and *(b)* supplied the IT system for hon. Members' claims used by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and what the cost of the contract was. [11822]

Mr Charles Walker: The expenses@work system was supplied as part of a wider IT contract with Calyx (UK) Ltd. It was originally developed by systems@work.

The capital cost of the software expenses@work was £126,000 (which is inclusive of VAT at 17.5%). The estimated annual running cost of expenses@work is not identified separately. The support contract for all IT software support at IPSA, which includes support for Microsoft Office, the Financial Accounting System "Great Plains", the payroll software "Jane HR" as well as expenses@work, is £116,000 (which is inclusive of VAT at 17.5%) per annum.

Leave

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have been authorised to be absent from work owing to *(a)* sickness and *(b)* other reasons in the last three months. [11825]

Mr Charles Walker: There are currently 27 permanent members of IPSA staff. Of these, nine have had authorised sick absences in the past three months. There have been no absences for study leave or unpaid leave over this period.

Due to the nature of temporary employment, there are no equivalent figures available for temporary staff.

Members' Staff: Pay

Richard Burden: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's policy is on the public disclosure of individual salary details for staff of *(a)* the Authority and *(b)* hon. Members. [9502]

Mr Charles Walker: The consultation on IPSA's publication policy, including salary details for MPs' staffs, has recently closed. IPSA is working to analyse responses, and draw up the final policy on publication, which will include details of the publication of MP staff salaries. This policy will be announced shortly.

IPSA intends to publish salary details of its own staff in its annual report. IPSA intends to comply both with the upcoming Government procedures on senior salary publication for staff earning over £58,200 and with the principles of the publication scheme for Members' staff.

Members: Allowances

Mr MacShane: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many right hon. and hon. Members have received payments from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in the current Session. [10424]

Mr Charles Walker: Up to 26 July 2010, 374 Members have received expense payments from IPSA, totaling £1,024,487.82.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reason the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has informed certain hon. Members that they may claim other accommodation costs without claiming mortgage payments; whether the Authority plans to allow backdated claims for such costs from other hon. Members; and what arrangements the Authority intends to make to compensate hon. Members who have incurred demonstrable financial loss as a result of following advice from officers of the Authority which was at variance with the Authority's policy. [11844]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA apologises for any incorrect information that was given to Members with regard to claiming associated expenditure.

During June and July 2010, IPSA consulted on various proposals to amend the MPs Expenses Scheme, including a proposal to allow Non-London Area MPs who own their property but who are not claiming mortgage interest subsidy to claim associated expenditure. This has now been incorporated into the revised scheme which was published on 26 July 2010. The online system will be updated to support this change by 16 August 2010 and all scheme changes and claims can be backdated to 7 May.

Where demonstrable financial loss has occurred, IPSA will look at evidence submitted in writing and will make decisions on a case by case basis.

Members: Claims

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average time taken to *(a)* validate a claim and *(b)* effect payment of a claim by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has been since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [10008]

Mr Charles Walker: Up to 23 July 2010 the average length of time to scan and validate a claim by IPSA was 10 days once IPSA had received the accompanying receipts. Once approved for reimbursement, payment was made within three days.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the *(a)* purpose of and *(b)* procedure is for validation of claims undertaken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and what the reasons are for the time taken for validation of claims. [10234]

Mr Charles Walker: The purpose of the validation process is to ensure expenses claimed by Members are eligible for reimbursement under the MPs' Expenses Scheme and that documentary evidence has been presented to support each expense. The type and nature of evidence required in relation to each expense is set out in our published guidance.

The validation process commences when IPSA receives the receipts or other supporting evidence to support the claim. The receipts are then scanned into the system and IPSA staff review each claim to assess eligibility for reimbursement. At present, all claims undergo a three-stage review process by IPSA staff before they are then released for payment. IPSA anticipates moving to a two-stage review process in due course.

Members: Correspondence

Richard Burden: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's target time is for the provision of a substantive reply to correspondence received from hon. Members *(a)* in hard copy and *(b)* electronically; and what percentage of such correspondence has been replied to within these times to date [9501]

Mr Charles Walker: At present, IPSA aims to respond to all e-mails and letters within five working days. It cannot readily provide data regarding the percentage of queries which have been answered within this time frame to date because it has recently introduced a new case management system. This will both improve the response time to e-mails, and ensure accurate records of correspondence between Members and IPSA. Once this system is fully rolled out across IPSA, it will provide Members with information on its performance against these and other service targets.

Standards

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has taken steps to assess the level of satisfaction with its service among *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* their staff; and if IPSA will publish a Charter of Service Standards to guarantee service users prompt, accurate and helpful answers to their requests for information and advice. [9617]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA has not conducted a systematic assessment of satisfaction levels with its services among MPs or their staff. It does, however, record both complaints and compliments to inform its reviews of the expenses system. There are also plans for further liaison with representative groups of MPs, which will provide opportunities for feedback about IPSA's services. At this early stage of operations, IPSA has not decided whether or when to publish a Charter of Service Standards.

Travel Cards: Applications

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what reports the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has received of difficulties in using the travel cards issued by the Authority for making claims; and what steps the Authority is taking in consequence. [11729]

Mr Charles Walker: To date, IPSA is not aware of any major problems experienced by Members when using the travel card. Minor problems such as lost or locked PIN numbers have been resolved on an individual basis.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reason the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has issued electronic copies of travel claim forms to the proxies of hon. Members only; and what consideration the Authority gave to notifying hon. Members that such forms had been issued. [11730]

Mr Charles Walker: All Members who have incurred expenditure on the travel card within the month will receive a paper copy sent to their home address. The paper copy will be sent at the end of each month. All Members who have a registered proxy on the online expenses system will also receive an electronic copy, sent to their proxy. Where Members do not have a proxy, they may use an alternate logon to access the electronic statement. We are working on a system change to develop an improved IT solution to this issue.

SCOTLAND

Commonwealth Games 2014

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the leader of Glasgow city council on *(a)* economic growth in Glasgow and *(b)* the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow since his appointment. [12123]

David Mundell: I met with the leader of Glasgow city council to discuss, among other issues, the Scottish economy, and how the Government could best support the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Our plan to cut the record budget deficit, which this Government inherited, goes hand in hand with our determination to return sustained growth to the Scottish economy.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13037]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the spend on the reimbursement of staff expenses, and the largest 10 claims in each year, are shown in the following table. In many cases individual claims will cover multiple occasions.

	Reimbursed (£)	*10 largest claims (£)*
1999-2000	35,465	1,668
		797
		797
		433
		429
		429
		409
		409
		352
		333
2000-01	55,316	2,366
		2,028
		1,593
		920
		920
		828
		812
		751
		736
		736
2001-02	41,332	1,435
		1,299
		828
		828
		766
		764
		736
		736
		736
		736
2002-03	61,294	1,196
		1,000
		952
		936
		917
		917
		917
		912
		877
		877
2003-04	39,048	2,481
		2,208
		1,173
		1,172
		956
		917
		902
		837
		757
		717
2004-05	22,376	1,310
		1,056
		1,056
		996
		930
		877
		877
		734
		676
		554
2005-06	31,623	2,167
		1,571
		1,476
		1,035
		872
		869
		845
		734
		703
		500

	Reimbursed (£)	10 largest claims (£)
2006-07	36,774	1,894
		1,619
		1,568
		1,394
		1,183
		995
		643
		634
		540
		530
2007-08	44,454	1,310
		1,229
		1,166
		1,023
		963
		861
		845
		845
		788
		718
2008-09	40,433	1,193
		879
		759
		710
		669
		592
		569
		537
		524
		524
2009-10	34,183	970
		558
		500
		460
		448
		447
		351
		342
		338
		321

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12356]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office and the Boundary Commission for Scotland have not sold any buildings or land since May 2005.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by his Department in each year since 2005. [12492]

Michael Moore: Scotland Office expenditure on external consultants and advisers since 2005 is shown as follows.

	Expenditure (£)
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	43,225
2009-10	7,000

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [13063]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not hold this information.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessor spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13018]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the Office has incurred the following expenditure on vacant properties.

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000	0
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	13,169
2004-05	9,477
2005-06	0
2006-07	30,639
2007-08	5,315
2008-09	0
2009-10	11,257

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many chairs his Department and its predecessor purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12798]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not separately record the purchase of chairs.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12357]

Michael Moore: The rent paid in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

£

	Total	*Scotland*	*London*
2009-10	207,123.85	195,640.10	11,483.75
2008-09	210,922.95	198,584.82	12,338.13
2007-08	209,766.76	197,429.24	12,337.52
2006-07	224,300.83	211,963.31	12,337.52
2005-06	182,703.83	170,365.83	12,338.00

Economic Growth: Glasgow

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he plans to take to increase levels of economic growth in Glasgow. [12124]

Michael Moore: Reducing the record budget deficit, which this Government inherited, is vital for creating the conditions needed for businesses to grow and to support the economic recovery. Our plan to reduce the budget deficit goes hand in hand with our determination to return sustained growth to the Scottish economy.

Glasgow

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has visited Glasgow on official business since his appointment; when he next plans to visit Glasgow; and whom he plans to meet. [10347]

Michael Moore: My colleague the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State visited Glasgow on 8 July and I visited on Thursday 29 July. I met with Thales Optronics and the Scottish Chambers of Commerce.

Internet

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many entries he has posted on his Twitter account since taking office; and how many people have subscribed to the Scotland Office Twitter feed in each of the last three months. [11269]

Michael Moore: I have made one post on the Scotland Office Twitter account since taking up office.

The Scotland Office does not hold details on the numbers of people who have subscribed to the feed in the last three months.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many hits there were on the Scotland Office website in *(a)* March, *(b)* April, *(c)* May, *(d)* June and *(e)* July 2010. [11270]

Michael Moore: The number of visits and page views for the Scotland Office website for the months March to June are as follows:

	Visits	*Page views*
2010		
March	5,346	13,355
April	3,906	9,719
May	6,521	24,874
June	4,552	16,957

The following July figures are up to the 22 July 2010 and are not the complete figures for the month.

	Visits	*Page views*
July 2010	2,492	8,752

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department ceased hosting a ministerial blog; and for what reasons. [11271]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office stopped running the ministerial blog on 13 May 2010, when the new Secretary of State was announced. Following later discussions between the Secretary of State and officials it was decided not to reinstate the ministerial blog.

Referendums

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what criteria the Government used to determine the eligible electorate for the referendum on Scottish devolution in 1997. [12535]

Michael Moore: A person was entitled to vote in the 1997 referendum in Scotland if, on the date of the referendum, they were eligible to vote in local council elections in Scotland and were registered to vote.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Executive on the entitlement to vote of EU citizens other than residents of England and Wales in referendums held in Scotland. [12536]

Michael Moore: I have had no discussions with the Scottish Executive on the voting entitlement of EU citizens other than residents of England and Wales in referendums held in Scotland. Where the Government hold a referendum on a reserved matter, the franchise is for the Government to determine.

Social Security Benefits

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effects on people in Scotland of proposed reductions in welfare expenditure. [12562]

Michael Moore: Welfare and benefits will be reformed in a way that protects those in genuine need, those with disabilities and those who can not work, but also encourages those who can work to get into work. The "Spending Review Framework" document issued by HM Treasury on 8 June states that the Government will look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, across the United Kingdom.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General what the cost to the public purse was of the Serious Fraud Office stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12833]

The Attorney-General: The cost for the Serious Fraud Office's stand at Civil Service Live was £9,000 (excluding VAT) for three days, with an additional cost of £169.67 for the provision of a light for the stand.

Domestic Violence and Homicide: Prosecutions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Attorney-General what percentage of the Crown Prosecution Service's budget was spent on bringing prosecutions against those charged with offences related to *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* homicide in the latest period for which figures are available. [11783]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not analyse expenditure by offence type and the information sought could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by the Law Officers' Departments for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11718]

The Attorney-General: No money was paid by TSol or AGO to trade unions during the last six years. Expenditure records are not held for any earlier period but it is unlikely that any direct payments would have been made to trade unions.

TSol does provide trade unions with accommodation to enable them to meet privately with their members, and store records/information relating to union activities. Since 2005 the trade unions have been provided with two rooms (one for PCS and one for FDA). The value of that accommodation is approximately £8,400 per annum.

HMCPSI make no direct contributions to the trade unions and does not involve itself if staff wish to join a union and make their own payment arrangements. HMCPSI has a Whitley Council which meets quarterly and is attended by FDA and PCS representatives. The video-link conference is facilitated by HMCPSI, however to identify costs of individual meetings over the period asked would be disproportionate to cost.

The Serious Fraud Office does not hold details on the number of days spent by staff engaged on trade union activities and the facilities provided for their use. It would only be possible to provide such data at a disproportionate cost.

The National Fraud Authority has not made any payments to or provided facilities for use by trade unions since it launched in 2008.

The following table displays the total value of invoices paid by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to unions by financial year since 1997. These are aggregated invoices paid to the Professional and Commercial Services Union (PCS), the First Division Association (FDA) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC).

Financial year	£
1997-98	0
1998-99	122.20
1999-2000	100.00
2000-01	0
2001-02	10.00
2002-03	450.00
2003-04	150.00
2004-05	0
2005-06	12,588.11
2006-07	11,445.22
2007-08	293.75
2008-09	0
2009-10	0

The CPS is a devolved organisation and no central records are held that relate to sites where rooms have been allocated for trade union activity. It is estimated that there are 10 sites with dedicated rooms, each of which are estimated at 10 square metres. At an average cost of £346 per square metre the current value of these facilities is estimated at £34,600 per annum. The following table therefore estimates costs to 1997 by deflating at the rate of 2.7% each year:

Financial year	£
1997-98	25,132
1998-99	25,811
1999-2000	26,508
2000-01	27,223
2001-02	27,958
2002-03	28,713
2003-04	29,489
2004-05	30,285
2005-06	31,102
2006-07	31,942
2007-08	32,805
2008-09	33,690
2009-10	34,600

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the Improvement and Development Agency stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12837]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold this information. The Improvement and Development Agency is part of the Local Government Association group; we expect the LGA to adopt the same standards of openness, transparency, and accountability as councils. The LGA has committed to publish details of all future expenditure over £500 from 1 September 2010. The LGA already seeks to abide by the principles of the Freedom of Information Act and is to be formally subject to the same FOI rules as central and local Government.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding each local authority received from his Department and its agencies for maintenance and repair of social housing in the latest period for which figures are available. [12888]

Andrew Stunell: Details of the total housing revenue account subsidy allowances for maintenance and major repairs are given in the following table. The figures given are for 2008-09, the latest for which we have audited data.

£

	Maintenance allowance	*Major repairs*
Adur	2,827,807	1,898,876
Alnwick	1,732,445	1,112,507
Arun	3,467,113	2,387,932
Ashfield	6,686,841	4,191,082
Ashford	5,376,970	3,206,403
Babergh	3,125,849	2,160,853
Barking	25,877,223	12,929,363
Barnet	12,832,650	8,060,402
Barnsley	19,927,284	11,845,073
Barrow,	[1]—	[1]—
Basildon	11,778,718	8,040,952
Bassetlaw	6,469,245	4,036,405
Berwick	1,059,114	702,464
Birmingham	66,253,257	41,009,973
Blaby	1,112,035	791,794
Blackpool	5,548,288	3,650,813
Blyth Valley	7,019,706	4,376,603
Bolsover	4,768,162	3,112,903
Bolton	17,862,691	10,638,062
Bournemouth	5,320,579	3,411,064
Braintree	42,807	28,349
Brent	12,548,533	7,215,632
Brentwood	2,537,555	1,826,843
Bridgnorth	2,056,913	1,347,664
Brighton and Hove	14,525,871.	9,066,687
Bristol	30,596,191	18,334,198
Broxtowe	4,141,221	2,808,178
Bury	7,816,131	4,823,506
Cambridge	7,181,131	4,885,785
Camden	38,896,873	21,354,686
Cannock Chase	5,072,397	3,236,829
Canterbury	5,673,279	3,708,516
Caradon	3,031,058	2,046,567
Carrick	3,239,175	2,173,756
Castle Point	1,441,308	1,077,021
Charnwood	5,658,996	3,640,815
Cheltenham	4,997,884	2,900,009
Chesterfield	9,759,121	5,801,048
City of London	2,559,841	1,774,564
City of York	8,466,544	5,151,635
Colchester	6,388,046	4,284,877
Corby	5,190,443	3,118,110
Crawley	7,859,362	5,594,717
Croydon	16,406,126	10,313,216
Dacorum	10,928,074	7,602,458
Darlington	5,866,200	3,859,492
Dartford	4,862,190	2,992,073
Derby	13,297,816	7,728,635
Doncaster	22,310,930	12,764,077
Dover	4,599,702	3,144,298
Dudley	23,587,913	14,107,588
Durham	6,179,940	3,866,032
Ealing	16,519,477	10,606,477
Easington	9,121,647	5,415,167
East Devon	3,723,338	2,461,432
East Riding	10,375,622	7,046,857
Eastbourne	4,203,233	2,617,231
Ellesmere Port	5,326,878	3,451,386
Enfield	13,910,563	8,988,558
Epping Forest	6,829,776	4,617,842
Exeter	4,983,414	3,122,045
Fareham	2,361,149	1,677,226
Gateshead	22,990,538	14,363,172
Gedling	1,943,260	1,232,463
Gloucester	4,404,637	2,761,381
Gosport	3,347,873	2,161,695
Gravesham	6,658,125	4,237,181
Great Yarmouth	5,948,303	3,764,913
Greenwich	32,561,103	20,083,446
Guildford	5,361,867	3,781,199
Hackney	33,574,800	21,296,274
Hammersmith	20,368,940	11,241,208
Haringey	22,915,118	11,855,023
Harlow	10,985,304	7,134,173
Harrogate	3,820,400	2,642,591
Harrow	5,766,885	3,558,608
Havering	11,805,354	8,148,952
High Peak	3,700,618	2,474,301
Hillingdon	11,604,854	7,624,180
Hinckley	2,977,126	1,996,298
Hounslow	15,836,157	10,008,072
Ipswich	8,219,880	4,985,002
Isles of Scilly	[1]—	[1]—
Islington	39,633,676	19,541,138
Kensington	9,635,494	6,266,335
Kettering	3,686,627	2,374,411
Kingston upon Hull	31,680,845	17,433,057
Kingston upon Thames	5,396,165	3,675,819
Kirklees	24,145,408	14,905,839
Lambeth	37,971,524	22,774,529
Lancaster	3,808,857	2,277,547
Leeds	64,883,425	37,293,907
Leicester	22,800,211	13,167,331
Lewes	3,404,181	2,259,986
Lewisham	24,951,021	13,379,320
Lincoln	8,277,028	4,863,090
Luton	9,045,163	5,935,179
Manchester	25,117,930	12,502,093
Mansfield	6,516,365	3,833,212
Medway Towns	3,392,940	2,156,412
Melton	1,753,715	1,169,488
Merton	7,154,858	4,424,407
Mid Devon	2,734,930	1,774,750
Mid Suffolk	3,116,020	1,951,876
Mifton Keynes	11,888,291	7,600,039
NE Derbyshire	7,509,497	4,696,359

£

	Maintenance allowance	*Major repairs*
New Forest	4,681,891	3,317,187
Newark	4,760,297	3,192,757
Newcastle upon Tyne	35,014,857	20,297,871
Newham	23,244,800	13,296,676
North Cornwall	3,041,757	2,019,989
North Kesteven	3,375,279	2,095,381
North Tyneside	16,945,357	10,245,164
North Warwick	2,658,482	1,710,754
Northampton	13,583,493	7,831,373
Norwich	16,486,436	9,447,375
Nottingham	33,126,325	16,843,628
Nuneaton	6,313,312	3,819,364
NW Leicester	3,887,511	2,671,128
Oadby and Wigston	1,219,725	793,772
Oldham	15,203,901	8,108,453
Oswestry	1,744,392	1,160,914
Oxford City	8,625,534	5,193,928
Plymouth	14,926,347	9,353,793
Poole	4,480,718	3,146,324
Portsmouth	17,849,994	11,177,989
Reading	8,089,335	4,349,264
Redbridge	5,424,615	3,607,241
Redditch	5,901,966	3,717,862
Richmondshire	1,616,529	1,072,355
Rochdale	14,997,785	8,689,610
Rotherham	21,663,578	13,234,565
Rugby	3,941,265	2,493,177
Runnymede	3,120,703	2,176,461
Rutland	1,111,215	751,811
Salford	19,231,434	11,486,477
Salisbury	4,927,088	3,268,681
Sandwell	30,459,622	18,053,016
Sedgefield	8,550,767	5,469,613
Sedgemoor	3,909,578	2,473,312
Selby	3,012,170	1,973,098
Sheffield	50,578,999	29,013,976
Shepway	3,710,701	2,350,792
Slough	7,014,181	4,721,761
Solihull	11,166,686	7,321,160
South Beds	5,277,262	3,553,263
South Cambridge	4,928,661	3,178,408
South Derby	2,706,471	1,875,017
South Holland	3,370,084	2,065,885
South Kesteven	5,780,094	3,561,838
South Lakeland	3,229,909	2,179,188
South Tyneside	19,677,171	12,196,187
Southampton	19,824,406	12,206,436
Southend-on-Sea	6,758,344	4,603,123
Southwark	57,591,132	35,479,606
St Albans	5,413,678	3,744,097
Stevenage	8,733,083	6,110,998
Stockport	11,490,087	7,736,028
Stockton	11,639,427	7,319,776
Stoke-on-Trent	18,587,184	11,342,999
Stroud	4,794,485	3,160,018
Sutton	7,291,044	4,306,104
Swindon	10,455,589	6,514,783
Tamworth	4,557,940	2,742,008
Tandridge	2,805,648	1,999,956
Taunton Deane	5,477,645	3,530,267
Tendring	3,437,939	2,230,213
Thanet	3,731,967	2,231,251
Thurrock	11,288,316	7,104,424
Tower Hamlets	18,434,778	11,823,308
Uttlesford	2,674,372	1,864,251
Waltham Forest	12,259,685	7,492,662
Wandsworth	24,279,764	15,023,150
Warrington	8,465,617	5,052,884
Warwick	5,521,262	3,620,534
Waveney	4,263,409	2,873,226
Waverley	4,906,185	3,463,239
Wealden	3,046,281	2,251,531
Welwyn Hatfield	9,983,031	6,371,323
West Lancashire	6,428,985	4,045,479
Westminster	20,098,007	11,343,675
Wigan	22,260,728	13,654,429
Winchester	4,826,266	3,324,058
Woking	3,704,941	2,503,582
Wokingham	2,775,174	1,847,637
Wolverhampton	24,302,008	14,642,997
Wycombe	6,205,572	4,176,070

[1] No data

Council Tax: Tax Collection

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the amount of council tax which remains uncollected by local authorities; what steps he is taking to increase collection rates; and if he will make a statement. [12595]

Robert Neill: As reported in the statistical release "Collection rates for council tax and national non-domestic rates in England 2009-10", published on 22 June 2010, in 2009-10 local authorities collected £21.4 billion out of a possible £22.1 billion which was a national in-year collection rate of 97.1%. This release is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates/

Collection of council taxes continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended. This means that the amount outstanding will be reduced and the final collection rate achieved is somewhere between the figures shown here and 100%.

The collection and enforcement of council tax is a matter for individual local authorities.

Every penny of council tax that isn't collected means higher council tax for the law-abiding citizens who do pay up on time. Councils with an efficient collection service are able to set lower council tax bills for everyone or spend more money on frontline services such as bin collections. The new Government will be making councils become more open and transparent about what they are spending. It is important that councils are sympathetic to the vulnerable and families who are struggling in the recession, and don't overuse bailiffs, but a lot more could be done to improve the back office service, especially in inner-city areas which have the worst collection rates.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12332]

Robert Neill: The former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by Communities and Local Government, its non-departmental public bodies and agencies that has been sold since May 2005 is as follows; it does not include land and property acquired by organisations for operational purposes such as regeneration.

Building	*Land*	*Price (£)*	*Funds accrued to Agency*
Peterborough field office	—	264,207	Ordnance Survey
Residential property	—	218,000	Fire Service College
Residential property	—	228,000	Fire Service College
Residential property	—	228,000	Fire Service College

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much office space per employee his Department and its predecessors occupied in each year since 1997. [13004]

Robert Neill: The amount of office space per employee for the Department for Communities and Local Government for 2008 and 2009, that includes data on CLG Central, the Government Office Network and its arm's length bodies has previously been published in the Office of Government Commerce's State of the Estate report.

The FTE per square metre for CLG was reported as 15.9 m2 in 2008 and in 14.9 m2 in 2009.

The reports can be accessed electronically using the following links:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/State_of_the_Estate in 2008.pdf

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/SOFTE_brochure.pdf

The requested data for the period prior to 2008 are not available.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9662]

Robert Neill: Private offices maintain guidance on the departmental intranet which provides general advice for officials working with Ministers.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13023]

Robert Neill: Since the creation of the Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2006 the total cost of vacant property has been £503,000. The following table details the annual cost of vacant space for the period:

	£
2006-07	0
2007-08	29,689
2008-09	204,542
2009-10	268,384

The detail requested prior to 2006 is unavailable.

The costs above for the financial year 2009-10 relate to two properties. These are the first floor of Sheffield House in Stevenage. The Department has been unable to secure further tenants for the space. The lease expires in March 2011.

The remainder of the cost relates to the ground floor of Hempstead House, which was vacated by the Highways Agency in November 2008. CLG Finance occupies floors one and two. Due to the difficult market situation the space has been set up for business continuity purposes in the event of the emergency closure of Eland House.

The Department continues to look for new tenants for the space to mitigate the cost exposure for the Department. The lease expires in 2014.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each region of England was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12472]

Robert Neill: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies have published their spending data for 2009-10 on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdata0910

Details of spending on vehicles including purchase, lease, maintenance and hire are categories within these data sets.

We intend to publish spending data for 2008-09 in due course as part of our continuing transparency initiatives but details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The information for planned expenditure is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental NDPBs

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility on the proposals to be contained in the Public Bodies (Reform) Bill. [12506]

Greg Clark: The Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies and reducing their number and cost. I am currently working with the Minister for the Cabinet Office and other partners across Government to assess the public bodies that fall under my Department's area of responsibility against three tests: do they perform a technical function; do they require political impartiality; or do they act independently to establish facts. We expect to make an announcement by the autumn. Informal discussions of potential scenarios have been held with some public bodies in order to inform planning.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10106]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 82WS.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them taken by *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility. [12272]

Andrew Stunell: My Department is facilitating a range of activities to increase the involvement of young people in decisions made by its Ministers, officials and public bodies. Ministers recently met the Young Advisors Charity and a number of its young advisors to talk about young people's contribution to the Big Society agenda; and officials hold regular meetings with representative organisations to ensure the views of young people are properly taken into account when developing policy. Although we do not hold information centrally on the work of this Department's public bodies with young people, we are aware of a number of different engagement programmes, including the Olympic Legacy Company's establishment of a Youth Panel made up of young people from the host boroughs, to get them involved in shaping the plans for the park after the Games; and the Tenants Service Authority work with the Young Advisors Charity to recruit young people to participate in their national structures for tenant voice. The Department for Communities and Local Government is also working with the Department for Education and the Office for Civil Society to support the National Citizen Service programme. The National Citizen Service programme is a key component of, and will seek to galvanise young people's interest in the Big Society. The programme is aimed at 16-year-olds and will be piloted in summer 2011 and will seek to develop a more cohesive, responsible and engaged society.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12333]

Robert Neill: The rent paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government in *(a)* total, *(b)* each (i) Government office region and (ii) nation of the UK and *(c)* London in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The figures include VAT where charged.

£

Government office region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	21,930,670	21,728,728	22,101,618	21,485,032	16,378,209
North West	38,981	19,490	—	—	—
East	379,277	379,277	379,277	357,043	364,500
East Midlands	10,000	460,409	460,409	215,203	10,000
West Midlands	1,209,107	302,277	—	—	—
Total England	23,568,034	22,890,181	22,941,304	22,057,278	16,717,109

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees in each year since 1997. [7639]

Robert Neill: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies have published their spending data for 2009-10 on the Department's website here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdata0910

Details of spending on training will be a subset of learning and development services expenditure but could be further broken down only at disproportionate cost.

We intend to publish spending data for 2008-09 in due course as part of our continuing transparency initiatives but details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* June 2010. [8224]

Robert Neill: As set out in the Ministerial Code, the Department will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for York Central (Hugh Bayley) on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 625W.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7582]

Robert Neill: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies, have published their spending data for 2009-10 on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdata0910

Details of heating costs are not recorded separately and will relate to electricity and gas. Details of telephone service charges will be a subset of telecommunications expenditure but could be further broken down only at disproportionate cost.

Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

We intend to publish spending data for 2008-09 in due course as part of our continuing transparency initiatives but details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer, *(b)* for written answer on a named day and *(c)* tabled in the House of Lords to his Department have been answered on the due date in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [12230]

Robert Neill: The information for the current Session of Parliament is set out follows:

	Questions tabled in the period:								
	25-31 May			*1-30 June*			*1-31 July*[1]		
	Total	*Number answered on due date*	*Percentage answered on due date*	*Total*	*Number answered on due date*	*Percentage answered on due date*	*Total*	*Number answered on due date*	*Percentage answered on due date*
Written questions	35	24	69	249	218	88	211	147	70
Named day questions	17	16	94	90	77	86	114	101	89
House of Lords written questions	1	1	100	29	29	100	32	32	100

[1] Excluding questions tabled for answer in September.

Farms: Change of Use

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to amend the planning system to assist farmers securing change of use permission for redundant and derelict farm buildings; and if he will make a statement. [10318]

Robert Neill: Local planning authorities are able to grant planning permission for changes of use for redundant and derelict farm buildings. Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): "Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth" asks local planning authorities to support diversification of farms for business purposes that are consistent in scale and environmental impact with their rural location.

In the coalition agreement we have also said we will promote Home on the Farm schemes, which will enable redundant and underused farm buildings to be used for homes.

The Government will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy, including for rural areas.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the merits of including a sparsity factor in the Fire Formula Grant Review. [12379]

Robert Neill: We are currently consulting on options for formula grant distribution from 2011-12.

These options include the possibility of including a negatively weighted population sparsity factor in the Fire and Rescue Relative Needs Formula.

We welcome views on the options presented in the consultation paper and we are also prepared to consider alternative proposals put forward during consultation.

This consultation closes on the 6 October 2010.

Government Office for the North West

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total monetary value was of assistance provided by the Government Office for the north-west to third sector organisations, community groups and voluntary groups in the last three years. [10792]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* The total running costs for Government office for the north-west throughout this period was £39.5 million. Of this, the estimated monetary value of assistance paid directly from GONW to infrastructure organisations that represent third sector, community and voluntary organisations is £300,000.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the role of the Government office for the north-west in securing European funding for that region to date. [11405]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* European funding allocations for the regions are determined at the national level, with subsequent overall responsibility for the management of the European Regional Development Fund resting with my Department. The Government office for the north-west was responsible for the day to day management of the funds available to the North West through the 2000-6 ERDF programmes.

We will be using the Spending Review process to test which activities currently carried out by the Government offices should continue, including management of European funding, and to decide the most cost-effective ongoing arrangements.

Government Offices for the Regions

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation he undertook on the closure of the Government Office Network with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* trade unions between 15 and 22 July 2010. [12521]

Greg Clark: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government met trade union representatives between 15 and 22 July 2010 to discuss the case for closure of the Government office network.

I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) and the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs Ellman) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1037W.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the effect on levels of employment of the closure of the *(a)* Government Office Network and *(b)* Government office for the west midlands. [12522]

Greg Clark: The Secretary of State's announcement on 22 July 2010 made clear that final decisions will be made at the end of the spending review following consideration of consequential issues including the effect on jobs across the Government and on specific Government offices. Until the spending review is complete it is premature to speculate on these matters.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* individuals on the closure of the Government Office Network. [12523]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs Ellman) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1037W, and as of 31 August the Secretary of State has received a number of representations from local authorities, trade unions and individuals regarding the Government's announcement of their intention in principle to abolish the Government office network.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were employed by the *(a)* Government Office Network and *(b)* Government office for the west midlands on the latest date for which figures are available. [12524]

Greg Clark: As at 31 July there were 1,691 staff working in the Government office network, of these, 191 work in the Government office for the west midlands.

Homelessness

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1088, whether funding from the £40 million fund may be used by local authority housing departments to fulfil their statutory responsibilities on homelessness; to what other purposes such funding may be put; and if he will make a statement. [11475]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Work and Pensions currently provides local authorities with funding of £20 million towards discretionary housing payments. This will be trebled to £60 million by 2012-13.

Discretionary housing payments can be made, subject to an annual cash limit, where a person is entitled to housing benefit or council tax benefit and the local authority considers that person is in need of further financial help to meet any shortfall in their housing costs or council tax. This can include payments for a rent deposit or rent in advance schemes for a property that the customer is yet to move into if they are already entitled to housing benefit for their present home.

The scheme is discretionary so it is up to local authorities to decide how they operate it, with any decisions on its use being made on a case by case basis.

Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many regulated tenancies there were in each local authority area on the latest date for which figures are available. [12253]

Andrew Stunell: Data on the number of regulated tenancies at local authority level are not available.

The latest estimate at national level, based on data from the Survey of English Housing, is that there were 120,000 regulated tenancies in England in 2007-08.

Housing Benefit

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed changes to housing benefit on housing markets in areas with a high number of properties in the private rented sector. [12172]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Work and Pensions published an impact assessment on 23 July 2010. This included a detailed assessment of impacts on households, local authorities and the affordability of accommodation, including breakdowns by government office region and by broad rental market area.

Housing: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to encourage sustainable housing development in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Coventry. [9573]

Andrew Stunell: The Coalition programme for government sets out our ambitions for a low carbon and eco friendly economy and to be the greenest Government ever. Within that, we have set out a number of actions to encourage sustainable housing development, such as the Green Deal to encourage home energy efficiency improvements paid for by savings from energy bills; continuing improvements in the energy efficiency of new homes; incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including for new homes; and retaining energy performance certificates.

In addition enhanced provisions for Part L of the building regulations will be introduced from 1 October this year, representing a 25% increase in existing energy efficiency requirements for new homes.

These policies and programmes will support sustainable housing development in Coventry as elsewhere in the country.

Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing nominations have been received by each London local authority from each partner authority in each London sub-regional partnership since their inception. [12680]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held by the Department for Communities and Local Government as made clear in the reply to the hon. Member's question of 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1141W.

Local Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to reorganise local government; and if he will make a statement. [12229]

Robert Neill: The Government have no plans for further reorganisation of local government and in particular for further invitations for unitary authorities.

Local Government Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he takes of population growth in deciding on levels of funding for local authorities. [12376]

Robert Neill: In distributing formula grant to local authorities, we use the sub-national population projections that are produced by the Office for National Statistics.

Local Government: Petitions

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for bringing into effect regulations requiring local authorities to make provision for responding to petitions. [12216]

Greg Clark: The requirement for local authorities to make provision for responding to petitions came into effect on 15 June 2010. The requirement for local authorities to provide a facility for making petitions in electronic form comes into effect on 15 December 2010. We are concerned that the implementation of these regulations by the last Government have been bureaucratic and cumbersome, and are reviewing how unnecessary prescription can be removed, while protecting and enhancing the democratic voice of local residents.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Tottenham of 2 July 2010 on the Decentralisation and Localism Bill. [12129]

Greg Clark: A response was sent to the right hon. Member on 20 July inviting him to contact my office to arrange a personal meeting with me to discuss his concerns.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 221-22W, on mortgages: Government assistance, if he will continue to maintain and fund his Department's Mortgage Help website beyond the Comprehensive Spending Review. [12525]

Grant Shapps: I am committed to working with partners, including lenders, debt advisers and local authorities, to provide effective help and advice for homeowners at risk of repossession, including through provisions of the MortgageHelp website.

Decisions on funding for future years will be taken as part of the spending review process.

Non-domestic Rates

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to making small business rate relief automatic; and if he will make a statement. [11978]

Robert Neill: We are committed to finding a practical way to make SBRR automatic. We are currently considering how best to do this and to what time scale. Any measure to automate small business rate relief requires primary legislation.

Non-domestic Rates: Charities

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which local authorities exercise the power to grant additional discretionary business rate relief for charity shops. [12609]

Robert Neill: As at 31 December 2009, local authorities reported they were granting discretionary charity relief to 32,100 hereditaments. It is not possible to identify shops separately from other hereditaments granted charity relief.

These data were published in Table 4 of a Statistical Release, "National Non-domestic rates to be collected by local authorities in England 2010-11", that is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/forecast/

The data were collected on the NNDR1 (Supplementary) form completed by all billing authorities in England in January and February 2010.

Ordnance Survey: Public Sector

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his decision on whether to proceed with the Public Sector Mapping Agreement with Ordnance Survey; and if he will make a statement. [12620]

Robert Neill: The Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA) has now been formally concluded between Ordnance Survey and the Department for Communities and Local Government and will come into effect from 1 April 2011. This commercial agreement enables all parts of the public sector in England and Wales to access core national mapping data free at the point of use. The agreement will better enable the sharing of information between public sector organisations and will help to maximise the use of geographic information for the benefit of the nation.

A transition plan for migration from the current public sector collective purchasing arrangements to the PSMA is available on the Departmental website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/transitionplanaug2010

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department (i) have had in the last 12 months and (ii) plan to have with private sector organisations on the proposed Public Sector Mapping Agreement with Ordnance Survey. [12621]

Robert Neill: During the consultation on "Policy options for geographic information from Ordnance Survey" officials met with the following private sector organisations:

Getmapping

Infoterra.

Officials have since met with the following private sector organisations to discuss the Public Sector Mapping Agreement:

Association for Geographic Information

Getmapping

Locus Association

Intelligent Addressing

Microsoft.

Baroness Hanham is scheduled to meet with Locus Association soon and officials will also be meeting The GeoInformation Group.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 22 of Planning Policy Statement 22, whether he plans to maintain the provision that local planning authorities can set minimum separation distances between different types of renewable energy projects and existing developments. [12596]

Robert Neill: This paragraph in Planning Policy Statement 22 concerns noise impacts. It looks to local planning authorities to ensure renewable energy developments are located and designed to minimise increases in ambient noise levels.

The paragraph advises that plans may include criteria that set out the minimum separation distances between different types of renewable energy projects and existing developments. For wind energy developments, paragraph 22 explains that the 1997 report by the Energy and Technology Support Unit for the Department of Trade and Industry should be used to assess and rate noise. This report considered that absolute noise limits applied at all wind speeds are not suited to wind farms in typical UK locations and that limits set relative to the background noise are more appropriate in the majority of cases.

We have stated in the coalition agreement that we will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

Right to Buy Scheme

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department issues guidance on the appropriate timetable for right to buy sales to individual tenants. [12690]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's booklet, "Your Right to Buy your home", provides information on the statutory time scales for right to buy applications. The booklet is freely available in hard copy and on the Department's website.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing units there were in each local authority area in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many of these were (i) studio and one-bedroom, (ii) two-bedroom, (iii) three-bedroom and (iv) four-bedroom properties. [11902]

Andrew Stunell: Information from the 1981 and 2001 Censuses is available for the number of households occupying social housing—in 1981 this includes households occupying local authority housing, housing associations and charitable trusts; in 2001 this includes households occupying local authority housing and other social housing including rented from registered social landlords, housing associations, housing co-operatives and charitable trusts.

The most recent figures provide the number of social dwellings in 2009. The number of local authority owned dwellings as at 1 April is supplied by local authorities through the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). The number of registered social landlord (RSL) owned dwellings as at 31 March is supplied by RSLs through the annual Regulatory and Statistical Return (collected by the Tenant Services Authority). These figures include vacant dwellings.

A table showing information on the number of social housing units in each local authority in 1981, 2001 and 2009 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Information on the number of units by bedroom size for each local authority area is not collected centrally.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12985]

Robert Neill: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies have published their spending data for 2009-10 on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdata0910

Details of taxi fares are included in these figures.

Staff also claimed £38,678 back through the Department's Travel and Subsistence system and a further £3,142 through the Government Procurement Card (GPC) for taxi use.

We intend to publish spending data for 2008-09 in due course as part of our continuing transparency initiatives but details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the value of facilities provided by his Department and its predecessors for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11658]

Grant Shapps: This Department does not pay any money directly to the trade unions representing staff nor are we able, without disproportionate cost, to make an estimate of the total value of facilities provided since 1997. We pay the salary and related costs (travel and subsistence etc) for a number of CLG headquarters staff undertaking industrial relations and trade unions activities in this Department on a full and part-time basis. This totalled £145,000 in 2008-09 and £93,000 in 2009-10. In addition, a number of staff receive facility time alongside their normal departmental roles. All these staff are provided with accommodation, IT equipment and use of meeting rooms on the same basis as other departmental staff.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11659]

Grant Shapps: In 2008-09, the number of days staff in the Department spent on all trade union activities was 1075.50 days. Equivalent information is not currently available for 2009-10 and could not be obtained for the period prior to 2008-09 without disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as information for 2009-10 is available.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11660]

Grant Shapps: In 2008-09, the number of staff in the Department who spent specified numbers of days on all trade union activities was as follows:

Number of days	*Number of staff*
5 days or fewer	13
5-10 days	2
10-15 days	2
15-20 days	0
20-25 days	1
25 days or more	7

Included in the seven staff working 25 days or more are staff working on trade union activities on a full or part-time basis. Equivalent information is not currently available for 2009-10 and could not be obtained for the period prior to 2008-09 without disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as information for 2009-10 is available.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12822]

Robert Neill: Since December 2008 the Department has spent £6,443 on wine through its facilities management supplier.

Wine was supplied in connection with official functions and the expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Details on expenditure for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Time: Administration

18. **Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the proportion of police officers' time spent on administrative tasks. [13100]

19. **Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the proportion of police officers' time spent on administrative tasks. [13101]

Nick Herbert: I have spoken to many officers about the time that they have to spend filling out forms. The Government are committed to reducing bureaucracy so that the police can get back on to the streets dealing with crime.

European Investigation Order

20. **Mr Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the implications for the UK of the decision to opt into the provisions of EU legislation on the European investigation order; and if she will make a statement. [13102]

24. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the decision that the UK should opt in to the provisions of EU legislation on the European investigation order. [13106]

Mrs May: As my hon. Friend is aware, I made an oral statement in this House on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 881-82, confirming our decision to opt into the European Investigation Order. Since opting in, I have received representations from Justice and Fair Trials International. Copies of these will be provided to the European Scrutiny Committees in both Houses.

Licensing

21. **David Rutley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of implementation of the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. [13103]

Mrs May: The coalition Government made a commitment to overhaul the Licensing Act, as it had failed to ensure that communities were protected from crime and antisocial behaviour associated with the night time economy. We launched the consultation 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' on 28 July and it closes on 8 September. Following the analysis of the responses, we will be taking forward proposals in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Alcohol Sales

22. **Guy Opperman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from industry bodies on proposals to ban the sale of alcohol at below cost price. [13104]

Mrs May: The Government set out a commitment to ban the sale of alcohol below cost price in the coalition agreement. This proposal forms part of the consultation 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' which closes on 8 September. The responses to the consultation have not yet been analysed, however, we have held seven national and seven regional stakeholder events where the issue of below cost sales was discussed with representatives' of the alcohol trade.

Asylum Backlog

23. **Jake Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department is making in processing the backlog of asylum applications made prior to 2010. [13105]

Damian Green: In 2006 a backlog of approximately 450,000 older paper and electronic asylum cases were identified, this is widely known as the "legacy" caseload. I informed this House during oral questions in June 2010 that that the Case Resolution Directorate had concluded 277,000 legacy cases up to the end of May 2010. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer updates the Home Affairs Select Committee on a regular basis regarding the progress made in resolving these cases. She is due to report again to the Committee this autumn.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* anti-social behaviour orders and *(b)* parenting orders have been issued in each local authority area since their introduction. [12883]

Nick Herbert: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. The latest available data on the number of ASBOs issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008.

Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of ASBOs and parenting orders issued are not available below criminal justice system (CJS) area level. A further breakdown could only be ascertained by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Parenting orders were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 and commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. Data showing the breakdown by area for the period 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 are not available. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has since April 2000 collected the number of parenting orders by youth offending team (YOT) area, as reported to it by youth offending teams. The available information is shown in the table A which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

The Department for Education has collected and published data on education-related parenting orders since 2004. The number of parenting orders issued in each local authority in England between September 2004 and August 2009 is shown in table B which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* South Yorkshire and *(c)* England since 2007. [12964]

James Brokenshire: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued cover the period up to 31 December 2008.

During 2007, the number of ASBOs issued at all courts in *(b)* South Yorkshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area and *(c)* England was 49 and 2,136 respectively. The equivalent figures for 2008 are 47 and 1,902 respectively.

Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. A further breakdown could be ascertained only by reference to individual court files, which could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

Asylum

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department measures the incidence of destitution as defined under the National Assistance Act 1948 among the asylum seeker community. [12868]

Damian Green: No asylum seeker need be destitute while their claim is being determined. The UK Border Agency provides support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is decided, and any appeal rights are exhausted. Therefore, we do not measure the incidence of destitution among the asylum seeker community.

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on *(a)* scheduled air flights and *(b)* chartering flights for the deportation of failed asylum seekers in each of the last 12 months. [12188]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency spent £18,073,370 on scheduled flights and £10,300,000 on chartered flights for the financial year 2009-10 on public expense removals.

The total cost of scheduled and chartered flights includes administration cost plus cancellation fees.

It is not possible to disaggregate the costs for removal of unsuccessful asylum seekers from the overall removal figures without the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost. Therefore this cost represents the removal of failed asylum seekers, foreign national prisoners and immigration offenders.

This is internal management information and has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. It is provisional and therefore may be subject to change.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (1) failed asylum seekers have been deported under the fast-track process in each of the last 24 months; [12254]

(2) deportations of failed asylum seekers were pending under the fast-track process at the time of Mr Justice Silber's ruling that the process was unlawful; [12255]

(3) appeals made by failed asylum seekers deported under the fast-track system were upheld following removal in each of the last two years; [12256]

(4) failed asylum seekers deported under the fast-track process were removed with *(a)* 72 hours of notice, *(b)* 48 hours of notice and *(c)* 24 hours of notice in each of the last two years; [12257]

(5) failed asylum seekers deported under the fast-track process in each of the last two years were children. [12258]

Damian Green: On 16 July 2010 Mr Justice Silber quashed the UK Border Agency's policy of giving less than 72 hours notice of removal in certain exceptional categories of persons being removed from the UK. This policy applied to all removals, including non-asylum removals, and was entirely different from the detained fast-track process which covers asylum decision making.

According to management information, the policy which was quashed by the court was applied 145 times between 12 March 2007 and 21 May 2010, when the policy was suspended by order of the court as an interim measure. We have broken this down by year as follows:

	Number of children served removal directions with less than 72 hours notice	*Total number served removal directions with less than 72 hours notice (includes the children figures above)*
2007	23	43
2008	28	34
2009	20	31
2010	1	37
Total	72	145

We only have information on the number of cases where less than 72 hours notice of removal was given. We do not have information on how many of these cases were given less than 48 hours or 24 hours notice of removal. We do not have information on how many of these removees were failed asylum seekers.

Cases which would have been removed under this policy are being processed in alternative ways and are currently all being given at least 72 hours notice of removal. There are not any cases on hold pending the outcome of this litigation.

Those who were removed under the policy will have already exhausted any statutory rights of appeal against the UK Border Agency's decision not to grant leave and/or to remove before removal action was initiated. However, those being removed under the policy may apply for permission to seek judicial review of their removal directions or they may seek an injunction preventing removal from the court. In the 145 cases set out above, management information that we provided to the court shows that 11 removals were prevented from proceeding because an injunction was sought or obtained, a judicial review application was lodged or threatened, or further representations were submitted for consideration.

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to make an order under section 58(2) of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to commence sections 39 to 41 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009. [11961]

Damian Green *[holding answer 27 July 2010]*: Sections 39-41, part of section 49 and section 58 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 contain new provisions on naturalisation. The previous Government planned to commence this legislation in July 2011 as part of their plans for an "earned citizenship" policy. Until this happens the legislation is not in force and so does not alter the British Nationality Act 1981 and applicants for naturalisation continue to be considered under the current provisions of that Act.

I believe that broad reform to the path to settlement and citizenship is necessary and I am currently considering the best way to achieve that. I hope to make an announcement in the near future.

Borders: Personal Records

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department assessed the merits of changing the scope of the e-Borders contract in response to representations from Raytheon on the implications of EU data privacy regulations for the roll-out of the e-Borders programme. [12503]

Damian Green: The decision to terminate the contract with Raytheon was taken after careful consideration of all the issues and on the basis of the supplier's performance not having been compliant with their contractual obligations.

Officials continue to engage in regular dialogue with the EU Commission on matters relating to the e-Borders programme, including the EU personal data protection directive. This dialogue has informed the management and direction of the e-Borders programme.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions changes were made to the e-Borders contract specification between the letting of that contract and May 2010; and what assessment she made of the effect on the timetable for delivering the contract of *(a)* changing the location of the National Border Targeting Centre and *(b)* the change in security clearance requirements for personnel working on the e-Borders programme. [12515]

Damian Green: There were 58 changes to the specifications for the contract formally agreed between the parties, many of which dealt with relatively minor changes.

The change in location of the National Border Targeting Centre did not affect the timescale for delivering the contract.

A number of concessions were made to expedite the security clearance requirements for personnel from the service provider working on the e-Borders programme to ensure the time scale for delivering the contract could be met.

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid Deloitte Consulting for its work on the e-Borders programme since September 2005. [12896]

Damian Green: Since September 2005 the Home Department has paid Deloitte Consulting £37,300,000 in respect of work connected with the e-Borders programme.

Community Policing

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many neighbourhood police teams there were in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* May 2010. [12222]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office did not keep a record of the number of neighbourhood policing teams that there were in 1997. While elements of neighbourhood policing were being practiced in 1997, it was not until 2003 that the Home Office began a National Reassurance Policing programme to pilot neighbourhood policing teams in their present form. The Home Office collected information on the number of neighbourhood policing teams until 2008. The last count, in September 2008 showed 3,603 teams. To reduce the burden of bureaucracy on forces, the Home Office no longer collects these data. The number of neighbourhood policing teams is an issue for individual police forces and authorities.

Crime: Wildlife

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to increase provision for the recording of wildlife crime. [12866]

Nick Herbert: We have no plans to increase provision for the recording of wildlife crime in England and Wales.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13035]

Nick Herbert: Due to the wide scope of the question and the period of time required this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Home Office accounting systems do not identify separately expense claims from other types of payment. This information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Home Office expenditure on reimbursement of staff expenses conforms to departmental guidance and policy which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of payments made by her Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11385]

Nick Herbert: The Department's performance of paying all compliant invoices from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within 10 days of receipt for the last three months is:

	Total compliant SME invoices paid on 10 day terms	*(a) (i) Compliant SME invoices on 10 day terms paid within terms*	*Percentage within terms*
April	604	520	86
May	566	499	88
June	543	487	90

The Department does not pay SMEs to terms other than within 10 days of receipt. The Department's performance of paying all compliant invoices for all suppliers within 10 days of receipt for the last three months is:

	Total compliant invoices paid on 10 day terms	*(b) (i) Compliant invoices on 10 day terms paid within terms*	*Percentage within terms*
April	1,535	1,308	85
May	1,506	1,308	87
June	1,537	1,407	92

The Department's performance of paying all compliant invoices for all suppliers within agreed payment terms for the last three months is:

	Total compliant invoices paid—all payment terms	*(b) (ii) Compliant invoices paid within terms—all payment terms*	*Percentage within terms*
April	1,860	1,617	87
May	1,804	1,572	87
June	1,861	1,714	92

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in her Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9672]

Nick Herbert: Guidance on drafting briefings, speeches and replies to official correspondence for Home Office Ministers is held on the internal website which is accessible to all Home Office staff. The guidance includes information on ministerial preferences and general best practice on preparing effective briefing.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12728]

Nick Herbert: In the last five financial years no IT contracts awarded by the Home Department have been abandoned.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which her Department is responsible in each English region was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12463]

Nick Herbert: Please see the following table for the answer to parts *(a)* and *(b)*. It is not possible to divide the vehicle expenditure into each English region without incurring disproportionate costs.

£000

			2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Core	Home Office	Purchases	1,342	2,241	276	20
		Running Costs	3,059	3,849	410	211

						£000
			2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Agency	United Kingdom Borders Agency	Purchases	[1]—	[1]—	506	2,025
		Running Costs	[1]—	[1]—	7,463	8,579
NDPB	Independent Police Complaints Commission	Purchases	396	14	0	0
		Running Costs	83	68	77	80
NDPB	National Police Improvement Agency	Purchases	24	304	723	0
		Running Costs	140	306	186	140
NDPB	Serious and Organised Crime Agency	Purchases	4,490	4,600	2,270	1,500
		Running Costs	7,954	7,760	7,140	6,676
NDPB	Independent Safeguarding Authority	Purchases	0	0	0	0
		Running Costs	0	13	15	8

[1] Included in HO figure.

The Identity and Passport Service, Criminal Records Bureau, Security Industry Authority and Office of the Immigration Service Commission have confirmed that they have had no expenditure on vehicles during the last three years and do not forecast any expenditure in 2010-11.

These figures do not include any expenditure on chauffeur services incurred by the Home Office.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which she is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12462]

Nick Herbert: The Department does not record employer pension contributions based on employee region or country. The Department publishes consolidated resource accounts which detail the pension costs for headquarters and the Executive Agencies; UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau. Table 1 details the consolidated employer pension costs for this group, as published in the annual Resource Accounts.

The Home Office has responsibility for a number of executive, advisory and tribunal NDPBs. Table 2 shows the pension costs of the executive NDPBs, which are taken from the relevant annual publications. The pension costs for the other Home Office NDPBs are not recorded centrally and would incur disproportionate to obtain. A list of advisory and tribunal NDPBs is shown in Table 3.

For 2007-08 and 2008-09, employer pension contributions to the principle civil service pension scheme were payable at one of four rates in the range 17.1% to 25.5% of the employees pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The Scheme Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years. Following a full scheme valuation the rates for 2009-10 were in the range 16.7% to 24.3%. The employer contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during the financial year when the member retires, and not the benefits paid during the period to existing pensioners.

The Department is currently undertaking cost savings initiatives, which includes running an early departure scheme for surplus staff. This will affect the total staff numbers in service and the grade mix meaning it is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of 2010-11 pension contributions.

Table 1: Home Office Forensic Science Service and Executive Agencies, total employer pension costs

	£000
2007-08	124,064
2008-09	168,912
2009-10	159,819

Source:

Home Office Resource Accounts 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Table 2: Home Office Executive-NDPBs, total pension costs

			£000
NDPB	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Independent Police Complaints Commission	2,807	3,043	3,090
Independent Safeguarding Authority	7	598	1,123
National Policing Improvement Agency	8,364	9,107	13,302
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner	448	439	399
Security Industry Authority	722	870	1,074
Serious Organised Crime Agency	35,331	32,556	31,168

Sources:

IPCC Annual Report and Statements of Accounts 2008-09 to 2009-10

ISA Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 to 2009-10

NPIA Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 to 2009-10

OISC Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 to 2009-10

SIA Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 to 2009-10

SOCA Statement of Accounts 2008-09 to 2009-10

Table 3: List of Home Office Advisory and Tribunal NDPBs

	NDPBs
Advisory NDPBs	Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
	Animal Procedures Committee
	Migration Advisory Committee
	National DNA Database Ethics Board
	Police Advisory Board for England and Wales
	Police Negotiating Board
	Technical Advisory Board
Tribunal NDPBs	Investigatory Powers Tribunal
	Office of Surveillance Commissioners
	Police Arbitration Tribunal
	Police Discipline Appeals Tribunal

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them by *(a)* Ministers in her Department, *(b)* officials in her Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within her Department's area of responsibility. [12263]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office aims to enhance public involvement in policy and decision-making. We want young people to be more engaged in this work and are currently considering how best to increase their involvement.

For example, initiatives have included internship programmes to provide exposure to policy-making for a number of young people. We will also ensure that young people have every opportunity to contribute their views to public consultations.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years in (i) each (A) nation and (B) region of the UK and (ii) London. [12464]

Nick Herbert: The monetary value of public opinion research and public relations contracts awarded by the Home Office (excluding executive agencies) during each of the last five financial years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 20008-09 and 20009-10) is shown in the following table:

	Public opinion research (£)	*PR contracts (£)*
2005-06	Nil	1,201,622
2006-07	60,575	597,921
2007-08	91,325	290,584
2008-09	212,830	839,994
2009-10	240,816	382,054

All polling during these years was undertaken using a nationally representative sample. We have not undertaken any polls by individual city or region. Costs are provided on this basis and cannot be broken down by specific expenditure per nation, region or city.

Public relation contracts are awarded for national campaigns in England and Wales, and therefore cannot be broken down further by region or city.

Departmental Responsibilities

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to external organisations which undertake work for her Department in respect of immigration and asylum matters in each of the last three years. [7075]

Damian Green: Details of the funding allocated to external associations in each of the last three years will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Deportation

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* foreign national offenders, *(b)* failed asylum seekers, *(c)* foreign nationals who have overstayed in the UK and *(d)* illegal entrants to the UK were deported in each of the last five years. [12744]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Total removals[1]	58,215	63,865	63,365	67,980	*64,750
Asylum cases[2]	15,685	18,280	13,705	12,875	10,815
Non-asylum cases[3]	42,530	45,585	49,660	55,105	53,930
Non-asylum overstayers[4]	5,811	5,717	8,775	11,032	10,647
Non-asylum illegal entrants[4]	2,995	3,445	3,593	4,152	3,909

* Published statistics figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[1] In answering this PQ "foreign national offenders" has been taken to mean immigration offenders and deportation has been taken to mean removals. Total removals relates to all immigration offenders removed and includes total removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom. This includes both in country and port removals. This data was taken from published immigration statistics (http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html).

[2] The PQ asks for the number of failed asylum seekers that have been deported in each of the last five years. It is not possible to say what stage in the asylum process the returnees as a whole have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point, because those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage. For this reason we have interpreted this as the number of asylum cases, including dependants, removed and departing voluntarily from the UK. This data was taken from published immigration statistics (http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats. html).

[3] Data on the number of non-asylum cases, including dependants, removed and departing voluntarily from the UK has been provided from published immigration statistics (http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html).

[4] Data on non-asylum overstayers and non-asylum illegal entrants is taken from Management Information as the published statistics do not break the removals down into these case types. These figures form part of the total number of non-asylum cases. Other cases that contribute to this figure include for example, administrative removal cases such as breach of employment restrictions. It should also be noted that Management Information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and hence is subject to change. Statistics to be used publicly or for other Government Departments or agencies must be agreed with the Migration Statistics.

Deportation: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many times physical force has been used to board a child under the age of 18 years on to an aeroplane by each company contracted to provide UK Border Agency escorts in each month of the last five years; [11167]

(2) whether *(a)* staff in immigration removal centres and *(b)* UK Border Agency escort providers have been authorised to use the holds and techniques on children under the age of 18 years referred to in the Physical Control in Care manual; [11168]

(3) what training on the control and restraint of children under the age of 18 years has been provided by the Prison Service *(a)* in each immigration removal centre and *(b)* to each company contracted to provide UK Border Agency escorts; [11169]

(4) how many times *(a)* she and *(b)* the manager of a (i) directly-managed and (ii) contracted-out immigration removal centre has ordered a detained child in each removal centre under the age of 18 years to be put under special control or restraint for (A) injuring himself or others, (B) damaging property and (C) creating a disturbance in each month of each of the last five years; [11170]

(5) what techniques are in the category of special control and restraint; how many times each of the techniques has been used on a child under the age of 18 years *(a)* in each immigration removal centre and *(b)* by each company contracted to provide UK Border Agency escorts in each of the last 12 months; and for how long each technique was used in each case. [11171]

Damian Green: Use of restraint is governed by schedule 13 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and specifically in relation to Immigration Removal Centres, by the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

In order to exercise any use of restraint, detention custody officers and escorts must be accredited by the Secretary of State, a condition of which is that they have undergone training of techniques approved by the National Offender Management Service. Officers receive refresher training every 12 months. Any use of restraint must be justified, proportionate and for the shortest possible period to achieve the objective.

Some officers receive specialist training in the use of restraint on children using non-pain compliant techniques (Physical Control in Care), including shepherding and guiding.

We only use restraint on a child where it is strictly necessary to prevent self-harm or to protect others and property. In very exceptional circumstances, officers may be given authority to restrain a child in order to enforce their removal from the United Kingdom where every effort has been made to secure their compliance, but unfortunately they refuse to do so, often encouraged by their parents.

In the 12 months to June 2010, the period for which data are available, officers have been authorised to restrain children on 18 occasions for the purposes of removal. However, it was only necessary to restrain three of them. One further child was restrained in an immigration removal centre when officers had reason to believe she might self-harm.

The following table shows the occasions from 2008 to the present time when children were restrained by officers to board an aircraft. Such information is not available prior to 2008. The officers were provided by G4S on each occasion.

	Number of times restraint used
February 2010	1
September 2009	1
August 2009	1
March 2009	1
January 2009	4
September 2008	1
June 2008	2
April 2008	1
March 2008	1

The above data are based on management information, and are not subject to the detailed checks carried out for National Statistics. They are provisional and subject to change.

Special restraint involves the use of any device other than handcuffs such as leg restraints (velcro straps). No child has been subjected to special control or restraint in the last five years.

Detainees: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained in each UK Border Agency immigration removal centre since 6 May 2010. [12190]

Damian Green: Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers relating to the second quarter 2010 is available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April-June 2010, published on 26 August 2010, in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have been clear in their commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. We therefore continue to work with our corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining our immigration laws.

Detention Centres

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places there are in each immigration removal centre in England and Wales; and what the planned number of places is for each of the next five years. [12742]

Damian Green: The following table details the current numbers of beds in each immigration removal centre (IRC) in England.

Immigration removal centre	*Location*	*Capacity*
Brook House	Gatwick	426
Campsfield House	Oxford	216
Colnbrook	Heathrow	308
Dover	Kent	316
Harmondsworth	Heathrow	615
Haslar	Gosport	160
Lindholme	Doncaster	124
Oakington	Cambridge	408

Immigration removal centre	*Location*	*Capacity*
Tinsley House	Gatwick	146
Yarl's Wood	Bedford	405
Total		3,124

The UK Border Agency operates a further IRC in Scotland, Dungavel House, which provides 217 beds and three short-term holding facilities providing 118 beds. There are no IRCs in Wales.

The UK Border Agency will be closing the centre at Oakington in November 2010 and the short-term holding facility at Harwich in the same month; it is considering options for expanding the detention estate but decisions will not be taken until after the comprehensive spending review.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of DNA matches made with the National DNA Database since 4 December 2008 in respect of individuals who were not *(a)* charged or *(b)* found guilty of the offence for which their DNA was originally taken. [12420]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made on her proposals to adopt the protections of the Scottish model for the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement. [12668]

James Brokenshire: We have made clear that the National DNA Database should focus on the guilty rather than the innocent, including those who have been convicted but whose DNA has not previously been taken.

The Government will bring forward proposals in the Freedom Bill later this year to adopt the protections of the Scottish model and end the indefinite retention of DNA taken from those not convicted of crime. This will mean that DNA from those not convicted is only held in the case of serious offences, and then only for a limited period. DNA taken in respect of a minor offence will not be retained at all for those who are not convicted.

Driving Under Influence: Drugs

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to issue type approval for drug testing devices to be used by the police for the screening of motorists. [12734]

James Brokenshire: We aim to issue and discuss with manufacturers by the end of September a final draft specification for a device that could be type approved. How soon after that devices are approved will depend on how quickly manufacturers put forward devices for approval, how well those devices perform in tests, how quickly manufacturers make any adjustments identified as necessary and how quickly they sign formal agreements with the Home Office recognising their obligations under type approval.

Entry Clearances

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken from application date to issue date for a visa to enter the UK from *(a)* overseas and *(b)* Pakistan was in the latest period for which figures are available. [12561]

Damian Green: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 655W.

Please note that visa processing times are counted from the date that the application is lodged to the date that either (a) the applicant's passport is sent back to the applicant, or (b) the applicant is contacted and informed that their passport is ready for collection.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gun licences were granted to people under the age of 16 years in each of the last four years. [12682]

Damian Green: The requested information is not collected centrally. It is not possible to provide the number of shotgun certificates broken down by age.

Human Trafficking

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on measures to combat human trafficking for sexual exploitation; and if she will make a statement. [12177]

Damian Green: The Home Secretary discussed the importance of international co-operation in combating human trafficking with G6 counterparts (France, Germany, Spain, Poland and Italy) at a meeting in Varese, Italy, between 28-29 May.

Ministers have also discussed human trafficking with EU counterparts at Justice and Home Affairs Council meetings. The Justice Secretary attended the Council meeting on 4 June (on behalf of the Home Office) where the proposed EU Directive on Human Trafficking was discussed and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime Prevention, James Brokenshire, attended an informal Council meeting held on 15 July, where human trafficking was discussed in the context of the proposed EU internal security strategy.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent human trafficking for sexual exploitation during the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [12179]

Damian Green: Our intelligence does not suggest there is any increase in human trafficking linked with the Olympics at the moment. This is in line with the research evidence, which does not suggest a link between major sporting events and an increase in trafficking.

However, we remain vigilant. We are reviewing the intelligence on a quarterly basis and have law enforcement measures in place to deal with any potential increase in the threat. The Metropolitan police are working to disrupt prostitution and recover victims in areas around the Olympic Park. Closer to the event we will, in line with need, consider whether additional awareness raising and victim care arrangements need to be put into place.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated for research into the prevention of human trafficking and the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in each year from 2010 to 2015; and if she will make a statement. [12180]

Damian Green: For the current financial year the Home Office is providing £1 million, together with £0.9 million from the Ministry of Justice, in grants to support adult victims of human trafficking.

There is no funding for research into prevention of human trafficking for the current financial year.

The level of funding available in future years for human trafficking is yet to be decided.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants who were trafficked for the purpose of prostitution who are resident in the UK. [12646]

Damian Green: The latest estimate of the numbers of victims of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in the United Kingdom is provided by the Acumen Report which was produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

This wide ranging study carried out in 2009 estimates that there are at least 2,600 victims in England and Wales. The report did not attempt to investigate the immigration status of victims but attempts to understand the nature and scale of trafficking among foreign sex workers in the off-street market.

Tackling border and immigration crime is a top priority for the UK Border Agency which is actively combating illegal working, sham marriages, bogus colleges and facilitation.

Identity Documents Bill

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State had with officials on the effects on transgender people of enactment of the provisions of the Identity Documents Bill prior to 25 June 2010; and whether the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State considered any written submissions from officials on this subject. [11587]

Damian Green *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* It is not the normal practice to publish details of the content and timing of written or oral advice provided by departmental officials to Ministers.

Scrapping the identity cards scheme as provided in the Identity Documents Bill, will not impact on the ability of transgendered people to access services or to travel in their chosen gender.

Illegal Immigrants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were found *(a)* at each of the main ports of entry to the UK and *(b)* in total in each year since 1997. [12197]

Damian Green: It is Government policy to publish UK Border Agency and UK Border Force management information at a regional level, as location specific information could prove valuable to those who seek to circumvent and abuse our immigration controls.

The following table gives the number of illegal entrants detected by officers of the United Kingdom Border Agency at UK ports of entry, between 2005 and 2009.

	Region				
	Central	*South*	*North*	*Heathrow*	*Total*
2009	168	180	24	0	372
2008	215	257	49	1	522
2007	108	400	52	0	560
2006	105	296	50	0	451
2005	98	219	109	1	427

In addition the UK Border Agency has officers at our juxtaposed controls stopping illegal entrants before they can enter the UK. In the calendar year 2009 for example, officers at the juxtaposed controls stopped over 29,000 people attempting to cross the channel illegally.

The following years cannot be accurately broken down between regions and those detected inland. The following table gives the total number of illegal entrants detected in those years. A significant number of these will have been detected inland.

	Illegal entrants detected
2004	22,972
2003	11,515
2002	48,050
2001	69,875
2000	47,235
1999	21,165
1998	16,500
1997	14,390

Immigration Controls

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to page 21 of the Coalition Agreement, what steps she has taken to reintroduce exit checks at UK borders. [12622]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to re-introducing exit checks by 2014. Protecting the border is a priority for this Government, and we are actively looking at how exit checks can be achieved with the support of the e-Borders programme.

Immigration: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency has spent on contractors to facilitate removal of individuals deported in each of the last 24 months. [12191]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has one contract with a private supplier to escort individuals who are being removed from the United Kingdom.

Additionally, it engages the services of two other suppliers to deliver services at times of high demand. The value of contracts between the UK Border Agency and its escorting suppliers is commercially sensitive and cannot therefore be disclosed since it might compromise competition.

Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the representations it received during the consultation meetings between her Department and residents of Lindholme on the proposed expansion of Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre. [12696]

Damian Green: Officials from the UK Border Agency held an exhibition at HMP Lindholme on 4 March 2010 to display and discuss plans of the proposed extension at Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre. 12 comments were collected from over 50 residents who attended.

UK Border Agency officials also attended a meeting in July of the Lindholme Village Action Group during which they participated in a question and answer session. Officials were presented with a document prepared by the Action Group which detailed their concerns and points to be addressed as part of any planning consent that Doncaster council may agree to. These were also sent to the Council and included:

Adoption of the roads around the site

Resurfacing of a road

Appointing one of the roads as a "dead-end"

Improved screening of the Centre

Installation of traffic lights

The UK Border Agency considered the points carefully before submitting the application. Many were for the local authority to address rather than the UK Border Agency or indeed the Ministry of Justice. The UK Border Agency has agreed to consider, subject to financial constraints, assisting in the improvement of the immediate area around the Centre as part of any new construction work but it has no influence over the local authority's decision making processes.

The UK Border Agency submitted an application to the local authority for planning consent in July 2010. It is available on Doncaster council's planning portal. A decision on whether to pursue an extension to Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre at this time is subject to approval of the application and the outcome of the Government's spending review in the autumn.

National Border Targeting Centre

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect the change in location of the National Border Targeting Centre on the timescale for the establishment of the centre. [12845]

Damian Green: The decision to change the location of the National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC) had no effect on the timescale for establishment of the centre.

Passport Office: Redundancy

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent contracts have been made redundant from each passport office since 7 May 2010. [11630]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service does not have any staff in either of the categories *(a)* or *(b)* above who have been made redundant since 7 May 2010.

I would, however, refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 552W, which details the early release of staff from the Durham passport office.

Passports

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to maintain passport security. [12790]

Mrs May: Passport security is extremely important. In operating the passport business, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) will continue to work to UK Government security standards and international standards on document security. To ensure greater efficiency and an improvement in the detection of fraud, IPS plans to develop a risk based approach to processing passport applications. In relation to document security, a new design of the UK passport will be introduced from 5 October 2010 with improved physical security features. IPS also plans to examine the options for enhancing the electronic security of the UK passport, and for greater investment in facial recognition technology. The IPS will continue to closely monitor international developments in passport security in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

Passports: Biometrics

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future use of biometrics in passports. [12791]

Mrs May: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) remains committed to the use of facial biometrics in passports. There are no current plans to introduce a second biometric such as fingerprints into passports.

Police: Domestic Violence

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police overtime was spent on attendance at incidents of domestic violence in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [11890]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold data on what proportion of overtime is spent on different activities.

Police: Doncaster

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in Doncaster on the latest date for which figures are available. [12849]

Nick Herbert: The latest published figures show that there were 478 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers and 74 FTE police community support officers in post in the Basic Command Unit of Doncaster on 31 March 2010.

These and other related data are published annually in supplementary tables to the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. Bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House and the latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

Police: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of employing, training and equipping *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force in 2010-11. [8123]

Nick Herbert: Police personnel costs are published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA). The latest available actual employment costs are for 2008-09 and are £7,811 million for police officers and £430 million for police community support officers (PCSOs). Actual employment costs for each police force in England and Wales are detailed in the following table.

Police force expenditure 2008-09

Force	*Police officer paybill*	*£ million PCSO paybill*
Avon and Somerset	162.729	10.667
Bedfordshire	63.66	3.074
Cambridgeshire	87.957	5.007
Cheshire	105.021	6.249
City of London	44.109	1.291
Cleveland	82.663	5.083
Cumbria	63.826	2.811
Derbyshire	110.401	4.832
Devon and Cornwall	153.194	6.236
Dorset	79.4	3.886
Durham	83.922	3.996
Dyfed-Powys	68.677	2.229
Essex	189.907	12.315
Gloucestershire	61.843	4.754
Greater Manchester	424.542	21.073
Gwent	81.32	4.051
Hampshire	198.819	8.7
Hertfordshire	112.676	6.88
Humberside	114.825	8.674
Kent	206.103	9.382
Lancashire	186.268	10.01
Leicestershire	123.24	5.502
Lincolnshire	64.682	3.75
Merseyside	272.236	11.336
Metropolitan Police	2,045.542.	140.078
Norfolk	76.011	7.471
North Wales	82.809	4.048
North Yorkshire	69.171	5.066
Northamptonshire	68.31	4.833
Northumbria	210.118	7.861
Nottinghamshire	127.914	6.086
South Wales	172.564	8.692
South Yorkshire	166.847	9.301
Staffordshire	106.494	5.674
Suffolk	71.455	4.123
Surrey	101.775	5.528
Sussex	166.547	9.934
Thames Valley	230.735	14.378
Warwickshire	73.936	0.533
West Mercia	127.105	5.394
West Midlands	424.882	20.101
West Yorkshire	281.644	5.182
Wiltshire	65.105	3.568
Total £ million	7,811	430

Source:
Chartered institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) 2008-09

Training is delivered either locally by forces, or centrally by NPIA. The Home Office does not collect data from forces on the cost of training police officers and police community support officers.

The provision of equipment is determined by individual forces. The Home Office does not collect data from forces on the cost of equipping officers and staff.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the average cost to a police authority of employing a *(a)* police officer and *(b)* police community support officer; and what estimate she has made of that cost in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [8124]

Nick Herbert: Police personnel costs are published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). Based on the latest CIPFA figures, in 2008-09 the average employment cost (including salary, national insurance, pension costs and superannuation) was £54,300 per full-time officer and £25,000 per police community support officer.

The Home Office does not currently collect data from police forces on the pay of individual police officers and staff, and does not hold information on what the average cost of employing a police officer or police community support officer will be from 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to provide funding for operations involving more than one police force to locate and arrest individuals regarded as posing a risk to the public. [12546]

Nick Herbert: Mutual aid is the provision of policing assistance from one force to another and falls under section 24 of the Police Act 1996. It is a formal arrangement and is usually provided in response to or in anticipation of a major incident or event, providing overall resilience to the provision of effective policing of the incident and force area in question.

In circumstances where the lead force incurs exceptional costs (including payment of mutual aid to other forces) they may apply for Special Grant assistance from the Home Office.

Full Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance on charging for police services mutual aid cost recovery can be found on the ACPO website at:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/data/Mutual%20Aid%20update%20for%202010-11%20rates%20Website.pdf

Police: Manpower

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each year since 1997; and how many police community support officers there were in each year since 2002. [12221]

Nick Herbert: The available data can be found in the tables.

The first police community support officers started work in September 2002, following legislation which was introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002. Therefore, data on police community support officers are not available prior to 31 March 2003.

These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police Officer strength in England and Wales[1], as at 31 March, 1997 to 2010

	Full-time equivalent[2] *Police officers*
1997	125,051
1998	124,756
1999	123,841
2000	121,956
2001	123,476
2002	127,267
2003[3]	131,426
2004[3]	137,105
2005[3]	139,543
2006[3]	139,631
2007[3]	140,032
2008[3]	139,728
2009[3]	141,647
2010[3]	141,631

[1] Figures are for the 43 police forces of England and Wales.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures).

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

PCSO strength in England and Wales[1], as at 31 March, 2002 to 2010[2]

	Full-time equivalent[3] *PCSO*
2002[4]	n/a
2003	1,176
2004	3,418
2005	6,214
2006	6,769
2007	13,497
2008	15,805
2009	16,507
2010	16,918

[1] Figures are for the 43 police forces of England and Wales.

[2] Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[4] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales have a dedicated *(a)* hi-tech crime, *(b)* e-crime, *(c)* financial investigation or fraud, *(d)* counter-terrorism, *(e)* organised crime, *(f)* rape and sexual offences, *(g)* child abuse and paedophilia, *(h)* drugs and *(i)* murder unit; and how many police officers are employed in each such unit in each such force. [12746]

Nick Herbert: Figures on dedicated units are not collected centrally. Instead, the Home Office collects data on numbers of officers in post broken down by their predominant function (from a list of over 60 categories of function). Figures are provided in the following table on officers in post on 31 March 2009 (the latest available period) for the functions most closely related to the units listed.

Police officer functions[1] (FTE)[2] in England and Wales as at 31 March 2009

	Child/Sex/Domestic/ Missing Persons[3]	*CID Specialist Crime Units*	*Drugs[4]*	*Fraud*	*Special Branch/Protection/ Immigration/Nationality[5]*
Avon and Somerset	n/a	0	n/a	7	n/a
Bedfordshire	n/a	34	n/a	6	n/a
Cambridgeshire	n/a	0	n/a	7	n/a
Cheshire	n/a	111	n/a	3	n/a
Cleveland	n/a	47	n/a	18	n/a
Cumbria	n/a	0	n/a	3	n/a
Derbyshire	n/a	98	n/a	12	n/a
Devon and Cornwall	n/a	0	n/a	16	n/a
Dorset	n/a	17	n/a	14	n/a
Durham	n/a	39	n/a	8	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	n/a	19	n/a	2	n/a
Essex	n/a	0	n/a	1	n/a
Gloucestershire	n/a	0	n/a	10	n/a
Greater Manchester	n/a	338	n/a	29	n/a
Gwent	n/a	0	n/a	7	n/a
Hampshire	n/a	120	n/a	1	n/a

Police officer functions[1] (FTE)[2] in England and Wales as at 31 March 2009

	Child/Sex/Domestic/ Missing Persons[3]	*CID Specialist Crime Units*	*Drugs[3]*	*Fraud*	*Special Branch/Protection/ Immigration/Nationality[3]*
Hertfordshire	n/a	0	n/a	14	n/a
Humberside	n/a	0	n/a	20	n/a
Kent	n/a	90	n/a	7	n/a
Lancashire	n/a	157	n/a	0	n/a
Leicestershire	n/a	150	n/a	16	n/a
Lincolnshire	n/a	0	n/a	3	n/a
London, City of	n/a	2	n/a	89	n/a
Merseyside	n/a	33	n/a	24	n/a
Metropolitan Police	n/a	139	n/a	225	n/a
Norfolk	n/a	2	n/a	8	n/a
Northamptonshire	n/a	0	n/a	5	n/a
Northumbria	n/a	78	n/a	16	n/a
North Wales	n/a	0	n/a	2	n/a
North Yorkshire	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Nottinghamshire	n/a	22	n/a	21	n/a
South Wales	n/a	1	n/a	14	n/a
South Yorkshire	n/a	0	n/a	12	n/a
Staffordshire	n/a	103	n/a	10	n/a
Suffolk	n/a	19	n/a	3	n/a
Surrey	n/a	80	n/a	4	n/a
Sussex	n/a	58	n/a	16	n/a
Thames Valley	n/a	0	n/a	13	n/a
Warwickshire	n/a	0	n/a	9	n/a
West Mercia	n/a	3	n/a	9	n/a
West Midlands	n/a	0	n/a	42	n/a
West Yorkshire	n/a	226	n/a	32	n/a
Wiltshire	n/a	5	n/a	4	n/a

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[3] Under the Freedom of Information Act 2005, Home Office have to provide members of the public with this data when requested. However under section (31), Law Enforcement, of the Freedom of Information Act, information can be withheld where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice (a) the prevention or detection of crime. Following consultation with ACPO, those categories that have been highlighted were deemed likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime and therefore have not been disclosed within the public domain.

Police: Motorways

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents to which police traffic officers responded there were on the motorway network in England in the last 12 months. [12145]

Nick Herbert: The information is not collected centrally.

Police: Pay

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average salary was for police officers in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leeds, *(c)* Manchester and *(d)* the Metropolitan Police District in the latest period for which figures are available. [12245]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collect data from police forces on the pay of individual police officers, and does not hold information on average salary for police officers in England, Leeds, Manchester and the Metropolitan police.

Police: Training

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police receive on responding to a report from a prison than an offender about to be released has made threats to a partner or ex-partner. [11960]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* Training courses from the Initial Learning Programme onwards make clear the responsibility of police officers to inform a person if it is suspected he or she is in danger or at immediate risk and to act accordingly.

This has led to the development of a policy for police forces in England and Wales that is referred to as the "Osman Warning". If the police receive intelligence that dictates that there is a real and immediate risk to the life, they will tell that person and the police are then expected to take reasonable measures to avoid that risk.

The National Intelligence Model (NIM) is an intelligence-led process which promotes a cooperative response to policing, it is embedded within the Initial Learning Programme for police officers. When information about a threat is received, it will be assessed in accordance with the NIM framework.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will allocate funding to ensure that safer neighbourhood teams are maintained in London. [11595]

Nick Herbert: The Government support neighbourhood policing and are committed to ensuring that all communities receive a high quality policing service that meets local priorities. Decisions about the number of safer neighbourhood teams in London and how they are deployed to each of the London boroughs is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

We have allocated £101.9 million in specific grant to the Metropolitan Police Service in 2010-11 for Neighbourhood Policing. The future funding settlement for the police will be determined by the spending review which will not be known until October this year.

Special Constables

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables there were in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available. [12898]

Nick Herbert: The latest published figures show that the special constable head count strength as at 31 March 2010 was 184 in North Yorkshire and 15,505 in England and Wales.

These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by her Department for use by trade unions in each year since 1997; [11661]

(2) how many paid manpower hours civil servants in her Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997; [11662]

(3) how many civil servants in her Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11663]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department does not provide any direct funding to trade unions.

As part of the fulfilment of our legal responsibilities towards our trade union representatives we provide reasonable facility time and access to office space and equipment. We are unable to provide an estimate of the total value of these for the current year as this information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Home Office headquarters employs approximately 3,000 staff and has 7.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff working full-time on trade union duties, assisted by 1.5 FTE staff providing administrative support. Almost all of these representatives and administrators also provide representation and support to around 23,000 staff working in the UK Border Agency.

There are a further 11 staff who undertake trade union duties on an ad hoc basis. These staff must seek prior authority from their line manager to undertake these duties. The Home Office provides clear guidance covering the circumstances in which staff who are acting as trade union representatives can claim facility time.

As facility time is not recorded centrally, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the equivalent numbers of days spent on trade union activities and duties in the ranges requested.

UK Border Agency

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which locations the UK Border Agency operates visa application centres and visa sections overseas; and what the operational cost of these centres was over the last five years. [12192]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has contracts with two suppliers, VFS Global and CSC, who operate visa application centres. In addition, the UK Border Agency operates visa sections, some of which are decision-making centres and some of which are enrolment centres. The locations of these visa application centres and visa sections are given in the following tables.

As regards operational costs, these are available for 2008-09 and 2009-10, since the visa operation has been part of the UK Border Agency. The operational costs of the visa application centres and the visa sections, including some London-based staff costs, were as follows:

FY 2008-09: £321.1 million

FY 2009-10: £314.3 million.

The commercial partner contracts, which are include in the above, cost £61.0 million in 2008-09 and £68.3 million in 2009-10.

The commercial partners operate 101 visa application centres in 48 countries. These are:

Country	*Visa application centre*
Algeria	Algiers
Bahrain	Manama
Bangladesh	Dhaka
	Sylhet
Brazil	Brasilia
	Rio de Janeiro
	Sao Paulo
Canada	Edmonton
	Ottawa
	Toronto
	Vancouver
China	Beijing
	Chengdu
	Chongqing
	Fuzhou
	Guangzhou
	Hangzhou
	Jinan
	Nanjing
	Shanghai
	Shenyang
	Shenzhen
	Wuhan

Country	*Visa application centre*
Egypt	Alexandria
	Cairo
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa
France	Paris
Germany	Berlin
	Dusseldorf
	Munich
Ghana	Accra
India	New Delhi
	Jalandar
	Chandigarh
	Kolkata
India	Chennai
	Hyderabad
	Bangalore
	Cochin
	Mumbai South
	Mumbai North
	Ahmedabad
	Pune
Italy	Rome
Indonesia	Jakarta
Jamaica	Kingston
Japan	Osaka
	Tokyo
Jordan	Amman
Kazakhstan	Almaty
Kenya	Nairobi
Kuwait	Kuwait City
Lebanon	Beirut
Libya	Tripoli
Malawi	Lilongwe
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Mozambique	Maputo
Namibia	Windhoek
Nepal	Kathmandu
Nigeria	Abuja
	Lagos—Ikeja
	Lagos—VI
Oman	Muscat
Pakistan	Islamabad
	Karachi
	Lahore
	Mirpur
Philippines	Manila
Qatar	Doha
Russia	Yekaterinburg
	Moscow
	Novosibirsk
	Rostov
	St Petersburg
Serbia	Belgrade
Singapore	Singapore
Saudi Arabia	Jeddah
	Riyadh
	Al Khobar
South Africa	Cape Town
	Durban
	Johannesburg
	Port Elizabeth
	Pretoria
South Korea	Seoul
Sri Lanka	Colombo
Switzerland	Geneva
	Zurich
Syria	Damascus
Taiwan	Taipei
Thailand	Bangkok
Turkey	Ankara
	Bursa
	Gaziantep
	Istanbul
	Izmir
UAE	Abu Dhabi
	Dubai
Uganda	Kampala
Ukraine	Kiev
Zimbabwe	Harare

In total there are 144 UKBA visa sections as follows:

Country	*Visa section*
Albania	Tirana
Algeria	Algiers
Angola	Luanda
Argentina	Buenos Aires
Armenia	Yerevan
Australia	Canberra
	Brisbane
	Melbourne
	Perth
	Sydney
Austria	Vienna
Azerbaijan	Baku
Bangladesh	Dhaka
Barbados	Bridgetown
Belarus	Minsk
Belgium	Brussels
Belize	Belmopan
Bolivia	La Paz
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo
Botswana	Gaborone
Brazil	Rio De Janeiro
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan
Bulgaria	Sofia
Burma	Rangoon
Cambodia	Phnom Penh
Cameroon	Yaoundé
Canada	Ottawa
Chile	Santiago
China	Beijing
	Chongqing
	Hong Kong
Colombia	Bogota
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	Kinshasa

Country	*Visa section*
Costa Rica	San Jose
Croatia	Zagreb
Cuba	Havana
Cyprus	Nicosia
Czech Republic	Prague
Denmark	Copenhagen
Dominican	Santo Domingo
Ecuador	Quito
Egypt	Cairo
Estonia	Tallinn
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa
Fiji	Suva
Finland	Helsinki
France	Paris
Gambia, The	Banjul
Georgia	Tbilisi
Germany	Dusseldorf Berlin
Ghana	Accra
Gibraltar	Gibraltar
Greece	Athens
Guatemala	Guatemala City
Guyana	Georgetown
Hungary	Budapest
Iceland	Reykjavik
India	Chennai Mumbai New Delhi
Indonesia	Jakarta
Iran	Tehran
Iraq	Baghdad Erbil
Irish Republic	Dublin
Israel	Jerusalem Tel Aviv
Italy	Rome
Jamaica	Kingston
Jordan	Amman
Kazakhstan	Almaty Astana
Kenya	Nairobi
Kosovo	Pristina
Kuwait	Kuwait City
Latvia	Riga
Lebanon	Beirut
Libya	Tripoli
Lithuania	Vilnius
Macedonia	Skopje
Madagascar	Antananarivo
Malawi	Lilongwe
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Malta	Valletta
Mauritius	Port Louis
Mexico	Mexico City
Moldova	Chisinau
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar
Montenegro	Podgorica
Morocco	Rabat
Netherlands	Amsterdam
Nigeria	Abuja Lagos
North Korea	Pyongyang
Norway	Oslo
Oman	Muscat
Pakistan	Islamabad
Panama	Panama City
Papua New	Port Moresby
Peru	Lima
Philippines	Manila
Poland	Warsaw
Portugal	Lisbon
Qatar	Doha
Romania	Bucharest
Russian	Moscow
Rwanda	Kigali
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh
Senegal	Dakar
Serbia	Belgrade
Sierra Leone	Freetown
Singapore	Singapore
Slovakia	Bratislava
Slovenia	Ljubljana
South Africa	Pretoria
Spain	Madrid
Sri Lanka	Colombo
St Lucia	Castries
Sudan	Khartoum
Sweden	Stockholm
Switzerland	Geneva
Syria	Damascus
Tajikistan	Dushanbe
Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam
Thailand	Bangkok
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain
Tunisia	Tunis
Turkey	Istanbul Ankara
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat
Uganda	Kampala
Ukraine	Kiev
United Arab	Abu Dhabi
United States	Chicago Los Angeles New York
Uruguay	Montevideo
Uzbekistan	Tashkent
Venezuela	Caracas
Vietnam	Hanoi
Yemen	Sanaa
Zambia	Lusaka
Zimbabwe	Harare

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency are based at each office location *(a)* in Scotland, *(b)* in each of the English regions, *(c)* in Wales, *(d)* in Northern Ireland and *(e)* overseas; and what the functions are of each office. [12198]

Damian Green: The regional breakdown of United Kingdom Border Agency workforce as at 30 June 2010 is set out in the tables placed in the House Library.

UK Border Agency: Publicity

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on points of entry campaigns explaining UK immigration and asylum policy in each of the last five years; and what plans the Government has for future such campaigns. [12193]

Damian Green: Since 2005, UK Border Agency has spent £1,644 on communications at the border explaining asylum policy. These communications are in the form of posters at all ports informing people that they must claim asylum at the first port of entry. We have also spent £598.25 on posters explaining that passengers must have valid travel documents for themselves and any dependent children otherwise they face prosecution as set out in the Asylum and Immigration Act 2004. No other money has been spent on campaigns to explain UK immigration and asylum policy at UK points of entry over the last five years.

In the current financial climate much of the work of the UK Border Agency, including all communications work, is under review. However, we are likely to continue to need this information at ports as it provides important legal information for those wanting to claim asylum.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value is of his Department's contract with Atos Healthcare; and when the contract will next be reviewed. [12280]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions re-awarded Atos Origin IT Services Ltd., trading as Atos Healthcare, a new contract to perform medical services on behalf of the Department from 1 September 2005. The total cost of these services amounts to approximately £100 million per annum. This figure not only covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits, but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements. The contract covered a seven year period with an option to extend for a further five years and is therefore currently under review.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* any disciplinary action has been pursued and *(b)* any complaints have been received and investigated by his Department in respect of Atos Healthcare in the last two years. [12281]

Chris Grayling: Following completion of investigations, if appropriate, a range of actions can be taken including remedial action which may involve re-training or removal from the list of approved health care professionals and employment terminated. Depending upon the findings of the investigation the General Medical Council may also be informed. A statistical breakdown is not available.

The Department as a whole does not keep statistics on the number of complaints made about Atos Healthcare, however Atos Healthcare themselves have received 7,476 complaints over the last two years. For the last quarter ending May 2010 the total complaints, which includes complaints relating to accommodation, staff and operational processes compared with the number of medical assessments completed, was 0.57%.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on any bonuses or incentives paid by Atos Healthcare to staff undertaking incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance medical assessments. [12282]

Chris Grayling: The role of the health care professional is to provide an independent, impartial assessment of the effects of a customer's illness or disability on their everyday lives. Neither Atos Healthcare nor their health care professionals receive any kind of bonuses or financial incentive in relation to the outcome of benefit claims.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to review the terms of the Medical Services Contract with Atos Healthcare in relation to the trial of reassessments for incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance medical entitlements. [12283]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently negotiating the terms of the services to reassess incapacity benefit recipients.

Children: Grants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of the childcare grant in each of the last three years; and what the highest payment made to an individual in one year was in that period. [12370]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The Childcare Grant is available to full-time, higher education students with dependent children in registered or approved child care.

For academic year 2009-10, the grant covers 85% of actual child care costs—both in term times and vacations—up to a maximum of £148.75 per week for one child and up to £255 per week for two or more children.

The following table shows the total cost of approved applications for Childcare Grant in the last three years for which figures are available. The Department does not release data at an individual level.

Childcare Grant, England

Academic year	*£ million*[1]
2006-07	28
2007-08	32
2008-09	38

[1] Rounded to nearest £ million.

Children: Maintenance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many and what proportion of referrals from Jobcentre Plus by the Child Maintenance Options Service the Service was able to make successful contact with the parents referred in each week of the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [12058]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in respect of how many and what proportion of referrals from Jobcentre Plus by the Child Maintenance Options Service the Service was able to make successful contact with the parents referred in each week of the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [12058]

The table below shows the number of Jobcentre Plus referrals successfully contacted by Child Maintenance Options by telephone for the second quarter of 2010 (covering the period 5 April to 4 July) and the proportion of total referrals this number represents.

	Jobcentre Plus successful contact	
Week ending	*Number*	*Percent*
11 April 2010	1,547	61
18 April 2010	1,935	68
25 April 2010	2,099	71
2 May 2010	1,788	53
9 May 2010	1,789	68
16 May 2010	2,113	70
23 May 2010	2,091	74
30 May 2010	1,643	57
6 June 2010	1,953	80
13 June 2010	2,367	82
20 June 2010	2,473	81
27 June 2010	2,267	76
4 July 2010	2,433	77

The telephone contacts that the Child Maintenance Options Service successfully makes are a result of multiple attempts to reach the parents that have been referred by Jobcentre Plus. Where it has not been possible to make contact with parents by telephone, they are sent a letter and encouraged to contact the service themselves. The above figures reflect overall successful contact, both outbound and inbound.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many referrals the Child Maintenance Options Service made to its face-to-face service in the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [12059]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many referrals the Child Maintenance Options Service made to its face-to-face service in the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [12059]

The table below shows the number of referrals to the face-to-face service made by Child Maintenance Options for the second quarter of 2010 (covering the period 5 April to 4 July).

Week ending	*Face-to-face referrals*
11 April 2010	107
18 April 2010	161
25 April 2010	178
2 May 2010	121
9 May 2010	112
16 May 2010	168
23 May 2010	156
30 May 2010	128
6 June 2010	71
13 June 2010	85
20 June 2010	79
27 June 2010	112
4 July 2010	92

It should be noted that, during the period of time represented in the table above, the Child Maintenance Options service was running service development pilots which included exploring utilisation of the face-to-face service. These pilots continue and findings are due in the autumn to inform future face-to-face service delivery.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many referrals the Child Maintenance Options Service received each week from Jobcentre Plus in the last quarter for which figures are available; and what proportion of new benefit claimants entitled to seek child maintenance this figure represents. [12060]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many referrals the Child Maintenance Options Service received each week from Jobcentre Plus in the last quarter for which figures are available; and what proportion of new benefit claimants entitled to seek child maintenance this figure represents. [12060]

The table below shows the total number of Jobcentre Plus referrals to Child Maintenance Options for the second quarter of 2010 (covering the period 5 April to 4 July) and the proportion of new benefit claimants entitled to seek child maintenance that this number represents.

Week ending	*Jobcentre Plus referrals*	*Proportion of new benefit claimants entitled to seek child maintenance (percentage)*
2010		
11 April	2,716	46
18 April	3,082	44
25 April	3,140	44
2 May	3,599	45
9 May	2,880	47
16 May	3,223	45
23 May	2,968	45
30 May	3,071	44
6 June	2,734	44
13 June	3,188	44
20 June	3,326	45
27 June	3,332	46
4 July	3,525	44

Notes:

1. Total may include those making a rapid reclaim and those where the client's partner accepted a referral.

2. Figures on clients with a child maintenance interest provided by Jobcentre Plus.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children living in relative poverty in each year since 1997. [12767]

Chris Grayling: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

Figures for 1997-98 cover Great Britain only, as data for Northern Ireland did not become available until the following year. The latest available data cover 2008-09.

Number of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income, before housing costs

	Number of children in relative low-income (million)
1997-98 (GB)	3.4
1998-99 (UK)	3.4
1999-2000 (UK)	3.4
2000-01 (UK)	3.1
2001-02 (UK)	3.0
2002-03 (UK)	2.9
2003-04 (UK)	2.9
2004-05 (UK)	2.7
2005-06 (UK)	2.8
2006-07 (UK)	2.9
2007-08 (UK)	2.9
2008-09 (UK)	2.8

Notes

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty.

3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.

6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

7. These statistics are based on incomes Before Housing Costs.

8. Figures for 1997-98 cover Great Britain only. Figures from 1998-99 onwards are for UK.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Children: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in workless households in St Albans constituency in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2010. [12116]

Maria Miller: The information requested is as follows:

(a) In 2004, there were estimated to be 1,100 children living in workless households in St Albans. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100.

(b) In 2008, no estimate is possible due to sample size issues.

(c) The latest available wave for the Household Annual Population Survey is 2008 so no estimate is available for 2010.

The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). It is important to note that, as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Prior to 2010 the parliamentary constituency boundaries were different. The information given reflects the population in the current boundaries as closely as possible.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11166]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions became a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code in March 2009 and set a target to pay 90% of correct invoices within 10 days of receipt. This target applies to all invoices paid by the Department and its agencies which are covered by a single finance system. The target has been met consistently since the signing of the Code. Separate figures for small and medium sized enterprises are not collected and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The percentage of all supplier payments made within 10 days of receipt of an invoice for the last three months are:

Month	*Percentage*
April	95
May	97
June	98

The percentage of payments made by the Department within our agreed payment terms of 30 days for the last three months are:

Month	*Percentage*
April	98
May	99
June	99

Departmental Buildings

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12342]

Chris Grayling: DWP has not sold any buildings or land since May 2005.

Prior to the formation of DWP in 2001, the former Department of Social Security outsourced its estate in 1998 via a private finance initiative (PFI) contract known as PRIME. The estate was sold (freehold, feuhold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) to Telereal Trillium.

The proceeds were released to HM Treasury in April 1998 for the original Department of Social Security estate and further in December 2003 when PRIME was expanded to include the former Employment Service estate following the creation of DWP.

(A) Non-departmental public bodies

(i) Health and Safety Executive—The chief executive of the Health and Safety Executive has replied separately;

(ii) The Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission estate is within the PRIME contract. The Commission has not sold any buildings or land.

(B) Agencies

None of the DWP agencies sold any buildings or land.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much office space per employee his Department and its predecessor occupied in each year since 1997. [13009]

Chris Grayling: DWP was created in June 2001 with the merger of the former Department of Social Security (DSS) and the former Employment Service (ES). The Department no longer has records of DSS or ES staffing from 1997 to 2001 nor does the Department have information on the size of the former Employment Service space prior to 2003 when their estate was included in DWP's Private Finance Initiative.

The space per employee occupied in each year since 2003-04 was:

	Office space per employee (m^2)
2009-10	13.4
2008-09	15.5
2007-08	16.4
2006-07	16.5
2005-06	17.5
2004-05	18.0
2003-04	17.3

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is a NDPB of the Department and manages its estate independently of DWP—their office space per employee occupied in each year since 2003-04 was:

	Office space per employee (m^2)
2009-10	15.72
2008-09	21.39
2007-08	21.50
2006-07	21.86
2005-06	19.57
2004-05	20.21
2003-04	20.90

The staffing and estate information sought for HSE is not available prior to 2003-04.

Departmental Communication

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that official communications from his Department can be accessed by people who do not have access to the internet, with particular reference to elderly people who do not have such access. [11981]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions presently communicates with customers by post, telephone, in person and increasingly via the internet. We provide official information in a range of formats, for example large print and Braille, so that elderly customers and those with specific accessibility needs are not disadvantaged. We also use specially trained telephony agents to communicate with deaf or hearing impaired customers who contact us using a text phone. Our literature is widely available in a range of public access areas (e.g. doctors' surgeries).

We are always seeking to improve accessibility of official communications. For example, our regular customer surveys ask how customers would prefer to be contacted and we are currently running a project that will help to improve the quality of our letters. In addition the design of the new state pension on-line service, which went live in March this year, was extensively tested with customers to ensure it meets the needs of older people. An enhanced version of the service is due to go live later this year.

We plan to signpost our customers to the benefits of internet use and to sources of help or support to get online. We recognise, however, that elderly people in particular make less use of the internet, so we will ensure that our plans do not introduce inequality and disadvantage.

Departmental Empty Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its predecessor spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13028]

Chris Grayling: DWP has not carried any cost for vacant properties since 1998 when the estate was outsourced under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) known as PRIME.

The Department no longer has any records for the former Department of Social Security space prior to 1998 and the start of the PRIME Contract nor for the former Employment Service prior to 2003 when PRIME was expanded to cover their estate.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is a Non Departmental Public Body of the Department and manages their property separately to the PRIME PFI. HSE spent the following on vacant properties in each year since 2004. The information sought is not available prior to 2003-04.

	Cost of vacant properties (£)
2009-10	17,000
2008-09	838,000
2007-08	680,000
2006-07	959,000
2005-06	0
2004-05	0

The expenditure on vacant buildings from 2006-07 arose as part of a programme to reduce the buildings HSE occupied from six to one and thereafter move its London HQ to Bootle.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many chairs his Department and its predecessor purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12808]

Chris Grayling: Information prior to 2007 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The number of chairs purchased on behalf of the Department and the related cost are provided in the following table together with a breakdown of the five most expensive chairs purchased for each of those years.

	Number of chairs	£
2007	9,209	1,036,159
2008	4,741	619,685
2009	5,611	773,970
2010 (to date)	3,821	575,201

	Five most expensive individual chairs purchased	£
2007	EMOVE2-65 Motorised Office Chair 65	6,299
	BodyBilt Chair—BodyBilt J2504/A/SS/4Arm/JCP Blue	1,565
	BodyBilt Specialist Chair—BodyBilt J2504/A/SS/4Arm/G1 Liberty Blue	1,456
	RH4—2004/84010/S7/S15—2004 RH LOGIC 4 with L/S and neck rest	1,209
	OP26XALS4 OP26 Arm Chair AMP10 LS4 Wide Long Back	1,082
2008	INVACARE PRONTO electric wheelchair	4,156
	B2503/Back Rest/A/SFB/NB Back Post/Special Chair	2,258
	BodyBilt Specialist Chair—BodyBilt J2504/A/SS/4Arm/G1 Liberty Blue	1,661
	J2504/A/SS/4 ARM/G1 fabric	1,565
	OP26B OPERA 26 backrest. backrest for OP26 model	1,410
2009	RH LOGIC 4 + 2 seat COMP GAJA navy. 8S rotation adjustable A	1,466
	Total Double Seater leather, silver base	1,323
	OPERA 26 chair	1,076
	Total single seater Leather silver base	966
	OP30-5 OPERA 30-5 Chair. Medium back-medium seat	868
2010	NOUFEL—OP30-6 chair long back medium seat. Rocking action.	1,322
	OP26WA OPERA 26 arm chair. AMP10 wide long back	1,148
	OP26ALS4 OPERA 26 armchair	805
	Two Seater Tub Chair	546
	Chair Long back with 3D headrest. Inflatable lumbar support	529

The Department entered into a 20-year PFI contract in 1998 for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. Furniture is one of the services provided but the cost of it cannot be disaggregated from the unitary charge. The information provided here relates solely to chairs which were procured separately (not within the contract price) for large projects. The majority of the five most expensive chairs are specialist items and have been provided for disabled staff.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [12731]

Chris Grayling: There has been only one IT contract abandoned by the Department in the last five years. This was the Contact Management services order with IBM, which was valued at £6,189,131.

Departmental Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on search engine biasing with (i)

Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years. [10018]

Chris Grayling: Over the last five years the Department has spent the following on search engine biasing:

	£
2006-07	5,100
2007-08	2,500
2008-09	176,000
2009-10	956,000

These figures represent the total cost of DWP search engine biasing work which includes spend on 'pay per click' and 'paid for' search terms. Search engine optimisation is carried out by the Department's own in-house communication teams.

Individual figures are not available for Google and other search engine providers. It would be at a disproportionate cost to extract these individual costs.

Search engine biasing costs are not available for DWP Agencies. We are working with Cabinet Office to implement a standardised method for quantifying website costs across the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. This is in response to a Public Accounts Committee recommendation. These costs will be available from April 2011 onwards.

The current cross-Government policy of freezing all paid for marketing and advertising has suspended spend on this type of paid for search term until further notice.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12343]

Steve Webb: The following table shows the cost of rent for DWP, including its non-departmental public bodies and arm's length bodies, properties in *(a)* total, *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK, and *(c)* London in each of the last five years:

£

	Rent				
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
(a) DWP national rent costs	229,183,337	228,761,294	220,398,213	215,611,016	210,419,226
Government office region					
(b)(i) Region					
East Midlands	8,172,335	8,361,591	8,421,809	8,186,052	7,770,228
East of England	11,285,078	10,365,319	10,101,697	9,679,317	9,490,110
London	39,213,807	40,276,009	36,525,383	41,662,393	37,082,253
North East	23,276,978	23,246,854	23,480,728	20,795,824	20,461,040
North West	37,801,976	37,233,411	36,759,318	34,772,735	34,507,488
Scotland	29,754,108	29,480,829	26,460,781	27,248,223	27,143,582
South East	19,042,850	19,644,356	19,405,568	17,665,434	17,401,089
South West	12,146,663	11,810,823	12,444,365	10,419,693	10,338,474
Wales	9,415,365	9,482,323	8,875,533	8,905,498	9,016,265
West Midlands	16,522,568	16,268,689	15,342,093	14,623,087	14,811,537
Yorkshire and the Humber	22,551,609	22,591,090	22,580,936	21,652,761	22,397,161
(b) (ii) Nation					
England (inc. London)	190,013,863	189,798,141	185,061,899	179,457,296	174,259,379
Scotland	29,754,108	29,480,829	26,460,781	27,248,223	27,143,582
Wales	9,415,365	9,482,323	8,875,533	8,905,498	9,016,265
(c) London	39,213,807	40,276,009	36,525,383	41,662,393	37,082,253

Disability Living Allowance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the effects of changed arrangements for testing for eligibility for disability living allowance on the health of long-term sick and disabled people. [9955]

Maria Miller: The Budget announced that we would be introducing a new, objective assessment for disability living allowance from 2013-14 to ensure support is targeted at those in need. The impact will depend on the detailed design.

We recognise that customers find the existing self-reporting forms complex so as we develop our proposals, we will talk to disabled people and a broad range of organisations to consider how our reforms could simplify the process for customers.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of disability living allowance would be if it had been uprated according to the consumer price index since its introduction in 1992. [10613]

Maria Miller: The Chancellor announced in the emergency Budget that from 2011 the consumer price index (CPI) will be used to measure the growth in prices for the purposes of uprating all benefits, including disability living allowance.

The CPI is the Government's headline inflation measure and the most stable price index. The RPI was negative at -1.4% when the 2010 uprating level was set, whereas the CPI stayed positive at 1.1%.

Under the previous Government's plan, last year's increase to disability living allowance was set to be clawed back in 2011. This would have meant, on current projections, a lower increase in disability living allowance than under this Government's plans. In keeping with their commitment to protect people in the most vulnerable situations, this Government will not be taking back the 1.5% 'advance' that was applied to disability living allowance in April 2010.

Disability Living Allowance: Autism

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* rate of uptake and *(b)* monetary value of unclaimed disability living allowance in respect of (i) children and (ii) adults with autism in each of the last 10 years. [12364]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the rate of take-up and amount of unclaimed disability living allowance are not available. This is because eligibility is not established until entitlement is tested at the point of claim and because assessment of eligibility is more complex than for other benefit, involving a detailed judgment of personal care and mobility needs.

Disability Living Allowance: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Leeds North West constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit. [12262]

Maria Miller: The information requested is as follows:

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Leeds North West	1,830	2,700

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by Employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e 'credit only cases'.
5. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Disability: Children

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the adequacy of assistance offered to single parents of disabled children who are returning to work. [12006]

Maria Miller: Those with disabled children have particular requirements around childcare, personal support, and access to flexible working. We are taking account of these in drawing up our plans for the Work Programme, which will offer all benefit recipients targeted, personalised help, delivered by contractors drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors, as well as social enterprises.

For lone parents who are looking for work and have caring responsibilities for a disabled child, further support is offered under the provisions of the Childcare Act 2006. Among other things, this gives local authorities in England and Wales a statutory responsibility to ensure the local child care market meets the needs of working parents, including those with disabled children, and ensures that parents of disabled children have access to reliable information on child care options.

In recognition of the difficulties lone parents caring for disabled children may encounter in returning to work, regulations provide that lone parents on income support with a child aged 15 or under who have a child receiving the middle or higher care component of disability living allowance are not required to seek work in return for benefit. However, for those lone parents who wish to return to work, pre-employment and in-work support are available through specialist lone parent advisers in Jobcentre Plus.

Employment: New Deal Schemes

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been assisted to find work through the New Deal since it was introduced. [12243]

Chris Grayling: The available information can be found in the following table.

The number of individuals finding a job through the new deal programme and the number of leavers to employment by type of new deal.

		Type of job gained		
	Number of jobs—total	*Leavers to employment total*	*Leavers to employment (no benefits)*	*Leavers to employment and benefits*
New deal for young people	935,630	638,270	600,230	38,040
New deal 25 plus	378,310	203,380	189,090	14,290
New deal for lone parents	662,800	538,130	458,720	79,410

		Type of job gained		
	Number of jobs—total	*Leavers to employment—total*	*Leavers to employment (no benefits)*	*Leavers to employment and benefits*
New deal for disabled people	215,800	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
New deal 50 plus	99,580	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
New deal for partners	6,690	2,260	1,350	910

[1] Denotes information not available.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information is only given for the most recent spell on new deal.
3. Number of jobs—total includes jobs gained during the participants' time on new deal as part of the new deal employment option. These people would not necessarily leave to employment.
4. Leavers to employment consist only of those people who left the new deal and went into employment. Destination is measured as destination within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
5. Leavers to employment—total includes those who left to employment but are also in receipt of a benefit, for example, disability living allowance.
6. Information is not available on leavers from new deal 50 plus or new deal for disabled people.
7. Latest data are to November 2009.
8. Data on new deal for disabled people are from July 2001 (the programme started in 1999); new deal 50 plus data are from January 2004 (programme started in April 2000) and new deal for partners data are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999). Information on new deal for young people, new deal 25 plus and new deal for lone parents is available since inception. New deal for young people data are available from January 1998 (new deal for young people pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998); New deal for 25 plus data are available from July 1998; new deal for lone parents data are available from October 1998.
9. The latest new deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new jobseeker's regime and flexible new deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009). More information is readily available on the employment programme statistics website at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/FND_tabtool_information.pdf.

Guide Dogs: Public Buildings

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which commercial premises refuse access to guide dogs; and if he will make a statement. [12499]

Maria Miller: No specific assessment has been made, but the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires service providers not to discriminate against disabled people in the provision of their services, and to make reasonable adjustments where it would otherwise be impossible or unreasonably difficult for a disabled person to access the services being provided. A reasonable adjustment can include relaxing a ban on animals entering premises so that a guide dog user may access the services. The failure of a service provider to make a reasonable adjustment is a form of discrimination. If a disabled person considers that they have been discriminated against by a service provider, the Act provides for the person to be able to take enforcement action.

Housing Benefit

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households are currently in receipt of housing benefit of more than £100,000 a year; and if he will make a statement. [11597]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

We cannot estimate annual expenditure for individual housing benefit recipients. However, we can look at customers' weekly housing benefit awards and identify those who received a maximum local housing allowance rate.

At March 2010 there were fewer than 100 customers who received the maximum local housing allowance rate. All these customers are located in the central London broad rental market area.

In June 2010 the maximum local housing allowance rate rose to £2,000 a week which would be equivalent to receiving £104,000 a year in housing benefit assuming the individual remains in receipt of the same level of benefit for 52 continuous weeks. Information on housing benefit awards in June will be available in September 2010.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional expenditure on housing benefit consequent upon annual increases in social housing rents in each year since 1990. [12305]

Steve Webb: The information is not all available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the tables.

Social sector housing benefit expenditure and estimated amounts due to increases in rents since 1992-93, in cash terms

£million

	Total social sector housing benefit expenditure	*Estimated amount due to rise in social sector rents*
1992-93	5,200	-
1993-94	6,000	600
1994-95	6,500	1,100
1995-96	7,100	1,600
1996-97	7,600	2,100
1997-98	7,700	2,500
1998-99	7,900	2,800
1999-2000	8,100	3,200
2000-01	8,300	3,600
2001-02	8,800	4,200
2002-03	9,600	5,000
2003-04	9,300	4,800
2004-05	9,800	5,400
2005-06	10,200	6,000
2006-07	10,600	6,600
2007-08	11,000	7,100
2008-09	11,500	7,700
2009-10	12,400	8,400

Social sector housing benefit expenditure and estimated amounts due to increases in rents since 1992-93, in real terms

£million (2010-11 prices)

	Total social sector housing benefit expenditure	*Estimated amount due to real terms rise in social sector rents*
1992-93	8,200	—
1993-94	9,100	600
1994-95	9,800	1,200
1995-96	10,300	1,700
1996-97	10,600	1,900
1997-98	10,600	2,200
1998-99	10,500	2,400
1999-2000	10,600	2,700
2000-01	10,800	3,100
2001-02	11,100	3,500
2002-03	11,800	4,100
2003-04	11,100	3,500
2004-05	11,400	3,900
2005-06	11,600	4,300
2006-07	11,700	4,600
2007-08	11,900	4,900
2008-09	12,000	5,200
2009-10	12,800	5,600

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest £100 million.
2. Social sector housing benefit includes local authority and registered social landlord tenancies.
3. Prior to April 2003, the rent taken into account for housing benefit purposes included some charges for care and support services. The removal of these charges caused a reduction in social sector housing benefit expenditure in 2003-04.
4. Real terms figures are in 2010-11 prices, derived using the Budget 2010 GDP deflator.
5. Estimates of the impact of rent increases are based on the assumption that all of the change in average rent levels recorded for housing benefit recipients can be attributed to change in the rents set by social sector landlords. In reality some of the change will be due to other factors, for example changes in the geographical composition of the caseload, but this should not have a significant impact on the estimates for individual years.

Source:

Housing benefit statistical and financial data.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of housing benefit claims in each local authority area were subject to one or more deductions for non-dependants in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average deduction was in each case; [12310]

(2) how many housing benefit claims in each local authority area were subject to one or more non-dependant deductions in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* social housing in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average deduction was in each case. [12311]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Housing Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the likely average deduction in housing benefit for jobseeker's allowance claimants who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for 12 months in each region, consequent upon the proposals in the June 2010 Budget. [12312]

Steve Webb: We are developing the detailed policy design for the measure announced in the June 2010 Budget to reduce housing benefit by 10% after 12 months for those customers who are also in receipt of jobseekers allowance. We shall publish impact assessments to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament and are investigating the scope for publishing sooner.

Housing Benefit: Leeds

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds who would be affected by implementation of his proposed changes to housing benefit; and whether he has made an estimate of the average change in housing benefit payments to such people under his Department's proposals. [12092]

Steve Webb: The Department published 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July, which includes analysis of the impacts for each local authority area. Copies of the document are available in the Library.

The information is not available at the constituency level.

Housing Benefit: Payments

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to make changes to the criteria according to which housing benefit is paid either to claimants or to landlords. [12089]

Steve Webb: A review of the first two years' operation of the local housing allowance arrangements is being undertaken to monitor the impact of the local housing allowance at a national level. The review aims to cover a range of issues including direct payment to tenants and will report later in the year.

Housing: Older People

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of the Secretary of State of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 608, what steps he plans to take to ensure that elderly people occupy homes of the size they need. [8204]

Steve Webb: Housing benefit for those customers living in the private sector is already set within the local housing allowance by the area and size of accommodation needed by the household. Anyone living in accommodation that is too large will receive benefit only to the level appropriate for the size of their household.

Within the social rented sector we have announced that we will restrict housing benefit for working age tenants who live in a property that is too large for their needs. It is too early to say how this change, which will come into effect in 2013, might be designed, but my Department will be working with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved

Administrations to identify a range of options. We will consult as we develop the proposals and during the legislative process.

Incapacity Benefit

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people resident in Moray constituency whose *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [10518]

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency whose *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what the average level of reduction is expected to be in each such case. [10524]

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Angus constituency whose *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what the average level of reduction is expected to be in each such case. [10528]

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Dundee East constituency whose *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what the average level of reduction is expected to be in each such case. [10534]

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Perth and North Perthshire constituency whose *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what the average level of reduction is expected to be in each such case. [10536]

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Banff and Buchan constituency whose *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what the average level of reduction is expected to be in each such case. [10539]

Maria Miller: The June Budget announced that social security benefits, including disability living allowance and incapacity benefit, would rise in line with the consumer prices index from April 2011 onwards. Under the previous Administration's plans, last year's increase to disability living allowance was set to be clawed back, which would have meant a 1.5% reduction in the value of the awards. This Government will not implement this clawback.

The Budget also announced that we would be introducing a new, objective assessment for disability living allowance from 2013 to ensure support is targeted at those with in need. The impact will depend on the detailed design.

The old incapacity benefit system is coming to an end. Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced on 27 October 2008 which replaced a range of incapacity benefits with immediate effect for customers making a new claim for financial support on the grounds of illness or incapacity. The reassessment of 1.5 million incapacity benefits customers will start in October 2010. The full reassessment programme will begin in spring 2011 and is expected to take three years to complete. No one migrating from their existing benefit to ESA will see a reduction in the level of their benefit entitlement at the point of change.

Incapacity Benefit: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons northern Scotland was chosen for the trial reform of incapacity benefit. [8304]

Chris Grayling: The project has selected two locations for the trial, Burnley and Aberdeen.

Incapacity benefit customers within these locations are considered representative of the overall incapacity benefit caseload. The trial approach involving these locations will enable data to be compared across a broad cross section of customers so that we can gain an early insight into the experience of customers undergoing the incapacity benefit migration process and customer journey.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* Scottish Executive, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* local health trusts and *(d)* disabled rights groups in northern Scotland on the planned trial reform of incapacity benefits. [8337]

Chris Grayling: Copies of a detailed information and briefing pack about planned changes affecting customers currently receiving incapacity benefits were issued to the Scottish Executive for Members of the Scottish Parliament on 7 July.

Jobcentre Plus officials have had discussions with the Scottish Executive's Social Inclusion and Employability Policy teams following the ministerial announcement on 29 June to update them on migration plans and advise of proposed communications activity.

Jobcentre Plus officials have already met with 13 customer representative groups on this issue. Discussion took place on the 29 July at the Aberdeen Works Forum, chaired by Jobcentre Plus with representatives from: NHS; Skills Development Scotland; Aberdeen College; Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations; Aberdeen Civic Forum; Aberdeenshire council and Aberdeen city council. Additional discussions have also taken place with Condition Management Programme Grampian NHS; Employment and Inequalities Co-ordinator Aberdeenshire council; Peterhead Project; Lifeskills; Aberdeen Foyer and Lead Scotland.

Independent Living Fund

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the withdrawal of the Independent Living Fund on the most disabled persons in the UK. [12205]

Maria Miller: The Independent Living Fund continues to support 21,000 existing users, although it is currently closed to new applicants. The Independent Living Fund undertook a full equality impact assessment before the decision to close the fund to new applicants was announced on 17 June.

The statutory authority for assessing and delivering essential care remains with local authorities. The coalition Government are committed to ensuring severely disabled people receive the support they need.

Independent Living Fund: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Northern Ireland Executive Ministers on the effects on Northern Ireland of the closure of the Independent Living Fund to new applicants. [12206]

Maria Miller: The Office of the First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly was advised of the decision by the Independent Living Fund to close the fund to new applicants in advance of the announcement on 17 June.

Industrial Health and Safety

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many allegations of breaches of health and safety legislation were received by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in each of the last five years; and how many such breaches were confirmed by the HSE in each of those years. [12398]

Chris Grayling: Allegations of breaches of health and safety legislation are usually reported to HSE as complaints.

HSE holds records on the numbers of complaints it receives and on the number which subsequently result in formal enforcement. HSE does not keep a record of the total number of complaints where breaches were confirmed, but where compliance with the health and safety legislation was secured without formal enforcement.

The numbers of complaints reported in each of the last five years and those resulting in formal enforcement action are as follows:

	Total number of complaints reported	*Numbers resulting in formal enforcement*
2005-06	21,074	[1]—
2006-07	18,865	617
2007-08	15,309	758
2008-09	13,360	686
2009-10	10,085	517

[1] Not available. A figure for 2005-06 cannot be assembled without disproportionate cost.

The above figures do not include instances where alleged breaches of health and safety are reported to HSE inspectors during site visits and subsequent action is taken. These figures would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost is of Jobcentre Plus's Telephony and Processing Implementation Project. [12065]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the estimated cost is of Jobcentre Plus' Telephony and Processing Implementation Project (TPIP). This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

On 21 October 2009 Jobcentre Plus announced changes to the way it manages its telephony and processing business. These changes are aimed at improving both the way in which customers contacting Jobcentre Plus by telephony are dealt with and the way in which claims to benefit are processed.

This is an 18-month transformation programme which will result in benefit enquiry calls being managed across a single virtual network of contact centres operating with standardised processes. The organisational moves necessary to bring about these changes have already begun. Telephony performance across all benefit lines has improved since October 2009 when calls were brought under the Contact Centre Directorate National Management Team To date we have transformed four offices into Contact Centres - Newport, Norwich, Sheffield and Springburn.

TPIP with other projects across DWP has been asked to review costs to ensure that we are transforming our offices in the most cost effective manner. TPIP is also subject to the Cabinet Office review of projects. Jobcentre Plus remains fully committed to the aims of the TPIP. The transformation programme is a key part of the Department's efficiency programme. We are unable to supply any estimated costs until we know the outcome of both reviews. We are expecting to know the outcome of the reviews by the autumn. I will write to you with the estimated costs when the reviews are complete.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bristol

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents in Bristol North West constituency who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in 2013. [7789]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most estimate is of the number of *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* others in Edinburgh East constituency who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months by 2013. [8195]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals resident in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* London, *(c)* the London Borough of Lambeth and *(d)* Streatham constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in each month from January to June 2010; and what proportion were also in receipt of housing benefit in each such month. [12861]

Steve Webb: The information requested on the proportion of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants also in receipt of housing benefit is not available.

Information is collected on the number of housing benefit claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, and the available information on the number who are also receiving income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)) in Great Britain, London, and the London borough of Lambeth is in the second table. However to provide the total number of JSA claimants receiving housing benefit would require a significant exercise to merge the relevant data and would incur a disproportionate cost.

The available information, as at July 2010, is in the following tables.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants, January to June 2010

Date	*Great Britain*	*London Government office region*	*Lambeth local authority*	*Streatham parliamentary constituency*
January 2010	1,561,300	227,300	11,635	4,325
February 2010	1,521,100	224,400	11,915	4,415
March 2010	1,488,400	221,600	11,840	4,340
April 2010	1,456,600	218,600	11,595	4,200
May 2010	1,425,400	215,600	11,485	4,130
June 2010	1,404,000	213,000	11,010	3,960

Notes:
1. Figures exclude clerically held cases.
2. Claimant count data are published at
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. Figures for Great Britain and London Government office region are seasonally adjusted; figures for Lambeth local authority and Streatham parliamentary constituency are not seasonally adjusted.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
100% count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems

Housing benefit recipients passported from income based jobseeker's allowance

Date		*Great Britain*	*London Government office region*	*Lambeth local authority*
January 2010	All recipients	4,651,100	781,810	39,060
	with JSA(IB)	546,340	95,990	5,720
February 2010	All recipients	4,700,160	790,650	39,240
	with JSA(IB)	561,900	98,410	5,800
March 2010	All recipients	4,718,940	792,890	39,350
	with JSA(IB)	567,810	99,050	5,860
April 2010	All recipients	4,746,320	797,710	39,410
	with JSA(IB)	572,120	100,250	5,920

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.
3. Passported benefit as recorded on systems within the local authority.
4. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
5. May 2010 figures will be published on 11 August 2010.
6. Housing benefit is not yet available by parliamentary constituency.
Source:
Single housing benefit extract (SHBE)

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of 18 to 24 year olds in receipt of jobseeker's allowance resident in East Lothian constituency. [11510]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made on the number of 18-24 year olds in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance in East Lothian Constituency. (11510)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. In June 2010 the number of 18 to 24 year olds resident in East Lothian parliamentary constituency claiming JSA was 560.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Local Housing Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those in receipt of local housing allowance in each local authority are in employment. [12676]

Steve Webb: Complete information is not available.

Employment status information is only collected for local housing allowance recipients who do receive passported benefits. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioner households and *(b)* working age households are in receipt of local housing allowance in each local authority area. [12677]

Steve Webb: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those in receipt of local housing allowance are in *(a)* shared rooms, *(b)* one bedroom, *(c)* two bedroom, *(d)* three bedroom, *(e)* four bedroom and *(f)* five bedroom properties. [12679]

Steve Webb: The local housing allowance relates to bedroom entitlement rather than the actual number of bedrooms in the property; we do not have information on the latter.

The Department published "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on the 23 July. Copies of the document are available in the Library. Table 35 of the document provides a breakdown by bedroom entitlement and local authority for those in receipt of housing benefit assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements.

Local Housing Allowance: Equality

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the race equality impact of proposed changes to local housing allowance. [12678]

Steve Webb: The Department has published an initial equality impact assessment for the proposed changes to the local housing allowance rates which includes an indication of the impact on race equality. It is not possible to provide the specific impact of the measures on race equality as such data are not available. Copies of the assessment are available in the Library.

National Employment Savings Trust Corporation

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the internal review of the National Employment Savings Trust to be completed; when he expects to announce the outcome of that review; what individuals and organisations were consulted as part of that review by means of *(a)* meetings and *(b)* written submissions; on what date and where each such meeting took place; if he will publish each written submission; for what reason no employee or consumer representative was appointed to the review group; and whether he has consulted the European Commission on the application of EU law to those proposals subject to that review, with particular reference to the automatic enrolment requirement. [11963]

Steve Webb: The independent review team considering how best to make automatic enrolment work will present their conclusions to Government by 30 September. I expect to announce our response to the review in the autumn.

In addition to a number of informal meetings with stakeholders, the review team have held three seminars: a seminar with consumer and employee representative groups (20 July); an employer seminar (23 July); and a pensions industry seminar (27 July). The seminars were hosted at the Department's offices in Caxton House, London. The closing date for written submissions to the review is 13 August. The review team will publish a list of stakeholders who took part in the review, along with a summary of their responses.

The need to increase pension savings by individuals is at the heart of the Government's commitment to introducing automatic enrolment into workplace pensions. The review is intended to ensure the way in which automatic enrolment is introduced strikes the right balance between costs, benefits and risks. The membership of the review team reflects this objective: Paul Johnson has wide experience of economic analysis and developing evidence-based public policy solutions, and David Yeandle and Adrian Boulding provide the review team with the expertise they need to understand what the reforms mean for employers and for the pensions industry. The review team is, of course, engaging with all relevant stakeholder interests through their meetings, the seminars and written submissions.

No engagement has been made with the European Commission on possible outcomes of the review.

New Deal Schemes: Expenditure

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs to the public purse was of the New Deal in each year between 1997-98 and 2002-03; what assessment he made of the effectiveness of that scheme in that period; and how many incapacity benefit claimants there were in total. [12927]

Chris Grayling: The cost to the public purse of the New Deals is as follows. Figures are also shown separately for the New Deal for Disabled People.

Programme and Administration expenditure on New Deals 1997-2003[1]

Period	Yearly outturn for New Deal programmes (£ million)
1997-98	43
1998-99	314
1999-2000	535
2000-01	565
2001-02	629
2002-03	614

Programme and Administration expenditure on NDDP 1997-2003

Period	*Yearly outturn for New Deal for Disabled People (£ million)*
1997-98	0
1998-99	1
1999-2000	22
2000-01	14
2001-02	10
2002-03	31

[1] *Notes:*
1. Yearly outturn data include programme and administrative expenditure but exclude the cost of AME training allowances.
2. The figures for 2002-03 include an estimate of administrative expenditure.
3. These figures are available in the Departmental Report 2009 which is available in the Library.

The total numbers of IB customers over the same period are as follows.

Incapacity Benefit Caseload 1997-2003[2]

Date as at November:	*Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance claimants*
1997	2,837,500
1998	2,767,600
1999	2,738,130
2000	2,764,140
2001	2,787,710
2002	2,818,480
2003	2,822,270

[2] *Notes:*
1. November 1997 to November 1998 figures are based on sample data and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. 5% sample figures rounded to the nearest 100, and 100% caseloads to the nearest 10.
3. 5% sample figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) totals.
Sources:
1. 1997-98 figures: Information Directorate 5% samples.
2. 1999 onwards: DWP Information Directorate: WPLS 100% data.

NDDP resulted in a seven percentage point increase in the proportion of customers who were in employment 24 months after starting the programme and an 11 percentage point increase for existing customers.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep430.pdf

Pathways to Work

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of participants in Pathways to Work moved into employment from *(a)* in-house and *(b)* private sector Pathways to Work providers in the latest period for which figures are available. [12064]

Chris Grayling: Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, there were 303,040 starts to Pathways to Work in Jobcentre Plus areas, of which 41,910 (13.8%) had moved into employment by 31 January 2010.

Over the same period, there were 273,200 starts to Pathways to Work in Provider-Led areas, of which 42,220 (15.5%) had moved into employment by 31 January 2010.[1]

Jobs information is drawn from tax records from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The data do not include people who are self-employed, and some people earning below the tax threshold. These figures are therefore likely to be an underestimate of the proportions finding work. There are also process differences between Jobcentre Plus and Provider-Led Pathways which means the proportions are not directly comparable.

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

DWP JCP and Provider-Led Pathways to Work databases.

Pension Credit

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to implement the State Pension Credit Pilot Scheme Regulations 2010. [5246]

Steve Webb: We expect that the State Pension Credit Pilot Scheme Regulations 2010 will come into force in July, with a view to running the planned research study later in the year.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of expenditure on pension credit was paid *(a)* to (i) men and (ii) women and *(b)* to recipients in each income decile in the latest period for which figures are available. [11792]

Steve Webb: Expenditure on pension credit given to single men, single women and couples in 2009-10 in Great Britain, nominal terms:

	£ billion
Single men	1.9
Single women	4.1
Couples	2.1
Total pension credit	8.1

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data

Information on the proportion of the expenditure on pension credit by equivalised household income deciles for pensioners only on an after housing cost basis in Great Britain, 2006-07 to 2008-09 is set out in the following table:

2006-07 to 2008-09	*Percentage*
Bottom decile	9
Second decile	20
Third decile	14
Fourth decile	10
Fifth decile	10
Sixth decile	8
Seventh decile	11
Eighth decile	11
Ninth decile	6
Top decile	2

Notes:
1. Estimates are derived from the Family Resources Survey and are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years.
2. Estimates are rounded to the nearest percentage point, so the deciles may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series.
4. The deciles are derived using OECD equalisation factors.
5. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. This methodology assumes that this undercount is spread proportionally across deciles.

Take up of the guarantee credit pension credit was between 71% and 81% of those estimated to be entitled in 2008-09. The majority of pensioners in the lowest decile appear from the data collected in the Family Resources Survey to have an entitlement to pension credit but have not made a claim so pension credit expenditure on pensioners in the lowest decile is relatively low.

Pension credit recipients within the top four deciles generally either have severe disabilities, which entitle them to disability benefits and premiums which increases their income to reflect the additional costs of disability, or be living within a wider household, for example with their families, whose income raises the household equivalised income to the higher deciles. In this circumstances the pensioner's income is assessed independently of the wider household to establish entitlement to pension credit.

Pension Protection Fund

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of savings which would accrue to the Pension Protection Fund as a result of linking pension indexation to the consumer price index in each of the next five years. [12670]

Steve Webb: The factors that may affect savings to the Pension Protection Fund are complex including how schemes might implement planned changes to statutory revaluation and indexation minima and the impacts on scheme investment profiles. The Board of the PPF expects to publish an assessment of the impact of the CPI change along with their report and accounts, once they are approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office and laid before Parliament in the autumn.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of pensioner poverty in *(a)* Southend West constituency and *(b)* Essex; and if he will make a statement. [8684]

Steve Webb: We will restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011, with a 'triple guarantee' that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. In 2011, if the basic state pension is increased by more than earnings under the triple guarantee we intend that, as a minimum, all single pension credit recipients will benefit from the full cash value of this increase.

We will also protect key benefits for older people such as the winter fuel payment, free television licences, free bus travel, and free eye tests and prescriptions.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to. We aim to simplify the benefit system and as a first step we will be looking to conduct a research study into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

We will help prevent people from falling into poverty in later life by simplifying the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions. We will encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees and will work with businesses and the industry to support auto enrolment.

Pensioners: Teachers

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the planned Public Sector Pensions Review will consider whether to remove the index link from teachers' pensions. [5495]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Independent Public Service Pensions has been tasked with undertaking a fundamental structural review of public service pension provision, the scope of which is set out in the terms of reference which can be found on the Treasury website under Independent Reviews at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_johnhutton_pensions.htm

The Teachers Pension Scheme falls within the scope of the review.

At the emergency Budget in June, the Chancellor announced that from April 2011 public service pensions, including Teachers' Pensions will be uprated by CPI rather than RPI. It will be for the Independent Commission to decide how to take account of this and other factors when reviewing public service pensions.

Pensions

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in (i) Ashfield, (ii) Argyll and Bute and (iii) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6650]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table:

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Ashfield	20,450	6,690	5,290
Argyll and Bute	21,420	5,740	4,810
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	6,420	2,850	2,370

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. For pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Pensions Act 2008

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which the penalty regime laid down in the regulations accompanying the Pensions Act 2008 meets his Department's better regulation principles. [6070]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions is firmly committed to the principles of better regulation and to good quality policy-making to achieve proportionate, consistent, transparent and targeted regulation.

The Pensions Regulator will take a graduated and proportionate approach to enforcing compliance with the new employer duties being introduced under the 2012 workplace pension reforms. The aim of the compliance regime will be to encourage compliance by focusing first on educating and enabling employers to comply.

We believe the regime of fixed and escalating penalties prescribed in the Employers' Duties (Registration and Compliance) Regulations 2010 is compatible with the principles of better regulation. Equally the regulations meet those principles set out specifically in relation to sanctions, in the context of a risk based approach to regulation, in Professor Richard B. Macrory's 2006 report 'Regulatory Justice: Making Sanctions Effective'.

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of implementing the Pensions Act 2008 on the labour market. [6074]

Steve Webb: DWP published "Workplace Pension Reform Regulations Impact Assessment" on 12 January 2010. This showed that based on the current labour market structure the weighted average increase in labour costs across all industries as a result of the Workplace Pension Reforms introduced in the Pensions Act 2008 is estimated to be 0.6 per cent.

The cost of the reform varies across industries, and is concentrated in industries with higher levels of employment, or those which currently have low pension provision.

The Government are committed to introducing auto-enrolment as an effective means of increasing pension saving. The review into how to make automatic enrolment work, announced on 24 June, will consider whether the approach inherited from the previous administration strikes the right balance between cost, benefits and risks for individuals, for employers and for the taxpayer. The review will be carried out over the summer and will conclude by 30 September.

Pensions: EU Action

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the proposals in Chapter 3.4.2 of the EU Green Paper on Pensions, COM (2010) 365 final, on improving solvency of final salary pensions schemes; and if he will make a statement. [11397]

Steve Webb: The Green Paper is consultative and does not contain any firm proposals on pension scheme solvency although it does discuss the issue. The Government are considering all the issues in the Green Paper and will be responding in the autumn.

Pensions: Lewisham

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Lewisham East constituency. [6595]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table:

Parliamentary constituency: Lewisham East

	Number
State pension recipients	12,910
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	4,640
Pension credit household recipients	4,020

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. For pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Post Office Card Account

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on whether the Post Office card account meets the needs of its users. [12872]

Steve Webb: The Post Office card account is a product provided by Post Office Limited. My Department has not undertaken any customer research specifically relating to the Post Office card account. However, I understand Post Office Limited has undertaken such research in order to monitor the effectiveness of its own products.

DWP has undertaken work in the past to understand the personal and financial needs of its customers to help ensure there is a range of suitable products available to them. The consistent message from Post Office card account customers is that they like the fact that it is a simple product with limited features and that it does not allow them to go overdrawn.

The Post Office card account is just one of the many banking products that customers can choose to use to receive their payments of benefits and pensions, and many of these can be used at post office branches.

Post Office Card Account: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley who have post office card accounts. [9589]

Steve Webb: As at February 2010, the latest date for which information is available, the number of post office card accounts held in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency was 3,650. The number held in the London borough of Bexley was 9,310.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in Stretford and Urmston constituency in 2009-10. [5852]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency in 2009-10. [5898]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency in respect of a second or subsequent child in 2009-10. [6013]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers in the area now covered by Worsley and Eccles South constituency in respect of a second or subsequent child. [6137]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start Maternity Grants were made to mothers in Makerfield constituency in respect of a second or subsequent child in 2009-10. [6199]

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in Kingston upon Hull North constituency in 2009-10. [6524]

Steve Webb: A total of 274,000 Sure Start maternity grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, around 143,000.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government office region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by constituency.

Source for total number of awards:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Note:

Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* the area covered by Ealing Central and Acton constituency in 2009-10. [5995]

Steve Webb: A total of 274,000 Sure Start Maternity Grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government Office Region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by constituency.

Note:

The number has been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* individuals on low incomes received the Sure Start Maternity Grant in (i) England and (ii) the West Midlands in each year since 2002. [8361]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the following table.

Number of Sure Start Maternity Grant awards made by financial year

	England	*West Midlands*[1]
2002-03[2]	199,010	n/a
2003-04	204,310	26,380
2004-05	203,480	26,560
2005-06	205,750	26,410
2006-07	205,890	26,740
2007-08	211,210	27,890
2008-09	229,030	30,790
2009-10	240,200	31,310

[1] The West Midlands has been interpreted as the Government Office Region of that name.

[2] Data for 2002-03 for the West Midlands Government Office Region are not available, because one Social Fund district then straddled the border between the West Midlands and the East Midlands Government Office Regions. (Data are only available by Social Fund district.)

Notes:

1. Due to the qualifying conditions for Sure Start Maternity Grants all individuals who receive an award are classed as being on low income.
2. The information above includes Sure Start Maternity Grants awarded on re-consideration or appeal.
3. The number of Sure Start Maternity Grant awards has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to meet Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss the effect on Wales of expenditure reductions in his Department. [11747]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State is planning to meet Leighton Andrews, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning in the Welsh Assembly Government, on 7 September 2010 and other Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on 13 October 2010. The planned meetings are to discuss a range of issues, including economic, social and welfare policy relating to Wales and the rest of the UK.

Retirement

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on life expectancy of members of each socio-economic group of raising the retirement age. [5617]

Steve Webb: Any equal increase in state pension age does have a greater impact on socio-economic groups with lower life expectancy than those with higher life expectancy. We need to deal with the underlying reasons for the variation in life expectancy.

There are no official projections of life expectancy by socio-economic group. However data on the change in life expectancy at age 65 by socio-economic group between 1972-76 and 2002-05 are available and presented in the following table:

Change in life expectancy between 1972-76 and 2002-05 at age 65 by social class, men and women, England and Wales

Socio-economic group		*Increase in life expectancy between 1972-76 and 2002-05 (years)*	
		Men	*Women*
I	Professional	4.3	2.9
II	Managerial and technical	4.7	3.8
IIIN	Skilled non-manual	4.9	2.1
IIIM	Skilled manual	4.1	2.4
IV	Partly skilled	3.5	2.0
V	Unskilled	2.5	1.1
	All non-manual (I, II, IIIN)	4.8	3.0
	All manual (IIIM, IV, V)	3.8	2.0

Notes:

1. Figures are period life expectancy, meaning they do not take account of improvements in mortality of these cohorts over time.
2. Data only cover England and Wales. There is no information on the other countries of the United Kingdom
3. Socio-economic groups I and V comprise a small percentage of the population. Data for these groups should be interpreted with caution, particularly for women.
4. The socio-economic classification is based on the occupational status of the individual, their spouse or parent.

Source:

ONS Longitudinal Study.

All socio-economic groups saw a significant increase in life expectancy between 1972-76 and 2002-05.

Variations in life expectancy for different socio-economic groups will be considered as part of the review into increasing the state pension age to 66, announced on 24 June.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people unable to work due to a workplace injury were claiming disability benefit in each year from 1997 to 2009. [7814]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available.

Social Security benefits: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much on average a health care professional undertaking incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance medical assessment was paid per client in the latest period for which figures are available. [12284]

Chris Grayling: Health care professionals are paid directly by Atos Healthcare; the Department for Work and Pensions does not hold information about amounts paid. The Department pays for all of the services provided under the Medical Services contract, the total cost amounting to approximately £100 million per annum. This figure not only covers the total numbers of examinations undertaken but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements. The figure also covers salaries and fees paid directly by Atos Healthcare to their health care professionals.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions the Chief Medical Adviser to the Department has waived recruitment criteria over minimum post registration experience required by health care professionals undertaking incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance medical assessments over the last five years. [12278]

Chris Grayling: Reliable figures are only available for 2009 and 2010. The chief medical adviser waived the requirement that healthcare professionals have three years post registration experience twice during 2009, and has not done so at all during 2010 to date.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 558, on social security benefits: medical examination, what level of qualifications health care professionals undertaking incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance medical assessments must hold in disability assessment medicine. [12279]

Chris Grayling: Qualification is dependent upon successful completion of the required training course in disability assessment medicine. The training course is developed by Atos Healthcare and agreed with the Department's Chief Medical Adviser.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of which benefit offices in northern Scotland trial reassessments of customers receiving incapacity benefit and income support will be undertaken; and whether he plans to increase staffing levels at those centres. [8301]

Chris Grayling: The office conducting the trial for the reassessment of customers receiving incapacity benefit in Scotland will be Aberdeen. Funding for increased staffing levels has been made available to the centres to undertake the trials.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of the basic state pension in-year under the policies applied in the previous Parliament for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [11203]

Steve Webb: The coalition Government are providing a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will rise each year by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. For 2011, we will additionally ensure that the increase will not be lower than it would have been under the previous uprating arrangements.

The previous Government introduced a statutory requirement to restore the earnings link by the end of this parliament as stated in the May 2006 White Paper:

> "During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic State Pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament."

The following table provides projected levels of the basic state pension depending on which year between 2011 and 2015 the earnings link is restored. In each scenario we assume that the basic state pension is increased by RPI inflation until the restoration of the earnings link. Estimates use the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecasts for growth published in the Budget of 22 June 2010.

The rates are indicative only as actual levels of inflation and earnings may differ from forecasts.

Level of the basic state pension, standard rate on own contributions, weekly amount

£

	Year of earnings link restoration				
Level of BSP in:	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
April 2011	99.50	101.85	101.85	101.85	101.85
April 2012	101.50	103.90	105.30	105.30	105.30
April 2013	103.65	106.10	107.50	108.45	108.45
April 2014	107.70	110.25	111.70	112.70	111.90

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of expenditure on the basic state pension was paid *(a)* to (i) men and (ii) women and *(b)* to recipients in each income decile in the latest period for which figures are available. [11791]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

(a) Expenditure on state pension by gender in 2009-10, GB and overseas, nominal terms

£ billion

	Men	*Women*
Basic state pension	22.9	30.8
Additional pension	6.9	5.8
Total state pension	29.8	36.6

Notes:
1. Basic state pension includes expenditure on graduated retirement benefit.
2. Additional pension includes expenditure on state second pension, the state earnings related pension scheme, and all lump-sum payments for deferred claims of state pension.

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data.

(b) Information on the proportion of the expenditure on basic state pension by income deciles is not available exactly as requested. Information set out in the following table shows the proportion of the expenditure on overall state pension (basic state pension and additional pension) by equivalised household income deciles on an after housing cost basis. Estimates are derived from the Family Resources Survey and are based on a three-year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years.

Proportion of expenditure on overall state pension (basic state pension and additional pension) by equivalised income decile based on pensioners only, Great Britain, 2006-07 to 2008-09 (after housing costs)

	Percentage
Bottom decile	8
Second decile	9
Third decile	10
Fourth decile	10
Fifth decile	10
Sixth decile	11
Seventh decile	11
Eighth decile	11
Ninth decile	11
Top decile	10

Notes:
1. Estimates are derived from the Family Resources Survey and are based on a three-year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years.
2. Estimates are rounded to the nearest percentage point, so the deciles may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series.
4. The quintiles and deciles are derived using OECD equalisation factors.
5. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. This methodology assumes that this undercount is spread proportionally across deciles.

Unemployment Benefits

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people *(a)* had been claiming unemployment benefit for more than six months on 31 December 1992 and *(b)* claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than six months on the latest date for which figures are available. [10859]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many young people (a) had been claiming unemployment benefit for more than six months on 31 December 1992 and (b) claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than six months on the latest date for which figures are available. (10859)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The number of young people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom for more than six months on 31 December 1992 is unavailable. The earliest available data are for February 1994.

The number of 18-24 year olds claiming unemployment benefit for more than six months in February 1994 was 357,180. The number of 18-24 year olds claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for more than six months in June 2010 was 103,230.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Unemployment: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of children living in workless households in East Lothian constituency. [11509]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 1,600 children living in workless households in East Lothian. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100.

The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008.

It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its predecessor spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12827]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not keep a separate record of expenditure on alcohol. Such expenditure is included within the hospitality account. Expenditure on alcohol and entertaining is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money. Accordingly, alcohol is provided only as an exception and then only with the specific written authority of a small number of designated senior civil servants.

Work Capability Assessment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that work capability assessments are carried out fairly. [10841]

Chris Grayling: Work capability assessments (WCA) are carried out by health care professionals (HCPs) employed by Atos Healthcare. The contract between the Department for Work and Pensions and Atos Healthcare contains a number of quality targets relating to audit conducted by experienced medical auditors within Atos Healthcare. The quality of Atos Healthcare's audit is validated by doctors working for the chief medical adviser to the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Department undertook an internal review of the WCA which was published on 29 March. The review found that generally the assessment accurately identifies individuals for benefit. The review made a number of recommendations for improving the WCA, which we have recently confirmed, that we will be implementing.

Additionally, the Government also have a statutory commitment to arrange an independent review of the main elements of the WCA every year for the first five years of operation. This review will look at the WCA in operation and is distinct from the Department-led review which focused on the technical accuracy of the assessment and whether it could better account for how individuals adapt to their condition. It is anticipated that a call for evidence will be made shortly.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of carrying out a work capability assessment for people in receipt of incapacity benefit. [11511]

Chris Grayling: Information regarding the cost of individual work capability assessments is commercially sensitive. The total cost of the services provided by Atos Healthcare to the Department for Work and Pensions for all benefit streams covered under the medical services contract amounts to approximately £100 million per annum. This figure not only covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits, but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

Work Capability Assessment: Costs

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average estimated administrative cost is of re-assessing incapacity benefit claimants for eligibility for employment and support allowance. [12393]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is unavailable.

We are planning to evaluate the administrative costs for re-assessing incapacity benefit claimants following the introduction of changes. Until we have more complete information following national implementation we will be unable to provide a standard administrative cost figure, we expect to have this information around the second to third quarter of next year.

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the projected reduction in expenditure which will result from re-assessing 1.5 million incapacity benefit claimants for eligibility for employment and support allowance; and how that estimate has been calculated. [12394]

Chris Grayling: There are one-off costs of reassessment of £300 million and average annual net savings of £200 million a year for five years. These figures are in net present value (NPV) and are detailed in the impact assessment that accompanied the reassessment regulations. NPV discounts future benefits and costs to express them as present values.

The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/em/uksiem_20100875_en.pdf

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to his Department was of carrying out each work capability assessment for existing incapacity benefit claimants in the latest period for which figures are available. [12406]

Chris Grayling: Information regarding the cost of individual work capability assessments is commercially sensitive. The total cost of the services provided by Atos Healthcare to the Department for Work and Pensions for all benefit streams covered under the Medical Services contract amounts to approximately £100 million per annum. This figure not only covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits, but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

Written Questions

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 4540 and *(b)* 4541, tabled on 23 June 2010 for answer on 28 June 2010, on the renaming of council tax benefit. [10087]

Steve Webb: I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 757W.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 6 September 2010

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equal Opportunities: Candidates

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take to encourage more candidates from under-represented groups to stand at the next general election. [10332]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* Following the recent general election there has been an increase in the number of MPs from under-represented groups, including an increase in the number of women MPs and those from an ethnic minority background to 22% and 4% respectively. Numbers of disabled MPs and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender MPs are unknown, but we believe there is under-representation of these groups in Parliament.

There is still more to do. That is why the Government are considering the recommendations by the Speaker's Conference on representation very carefully. We have already made an early commitment as part of our coalition agreement to introduce extra support for disabled people who want to become MPs, councillors or other elected officials.

The Equality Act will allow political parties to have selection arrangements for candidates designed to reduce inequalities, including all women shortlists, until the end of 2030. These Provisions will come in to force in October 2010 during the first wave of implementation of the Act.

The Government Equalities Office has commissioned research to understand the barriers faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people participating in civil society. This is looking at a broad range of ways to participate, including standing for Parliament. In light of the findings of the research, we will consider what further steps we can take to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to participate visibly, including developing tools to support those who want to participate but are unsure how to.

I look forward to working closely with the Deputy Prime Minister to ensure that equality and diversity are at the heart of the constitutional reform agenda.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office has paid to trade unions in each year since 2007; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by the Government Equalities Office for use by trade unions in each year since 2007. [11664]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has had one elected trade union official in post since 2009 and estimates the annual cost to be £5,800.

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many paid manpower hours civil servants in the Government Equalities Office spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 2007. [11665]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has had one elected trade union official since 2009-10, who is allocated a facility time allowance of up to 187 hours a year.

The GEO representative has used the full allowance permitted since 2009.

WALES

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) her Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which her Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12358]

Mr David Jones: There has been no disposal of land or of buildings by the Wales Office since May 2005.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13280]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has paid the following proportion of invoices within 10 days of receipt:

	Percentage
July 2010	98
August 2010	100

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much office space per employee her Department and its predecessor occupied in each year since 1997. [12998]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has an office in London and an office in Cardiff. The following figures are the average office space per employee since 2004. Figures prior to 2004, and each year since 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Site	*Footage*^{m2} *(approx)*	*Staff numbers (approx)*	*Average*^{m2} *per employee*
London	896	36	24
Cardiff	557	21	27

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by her Department in each year since 2005. [12478]

Mr David Jones: Since 2005 we have spent the following on external consultants:

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	37,699
2007-08	17,037
2008-09	0
2009-10	3,691

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by her Department was in each of the last five years. [13065]

Mr David Jones: The average and highest daily rates paid to consultants by my Department in the last five years were:

		£
	Average	*Highest*
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	1,700	1,700
2007-08	629	737
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	650	650

Departmental Coordination

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which Ministers in each Department have been designated to liaise on Welsh issues with her Department. [12104]

Mrs Gillan: An announcement will be made shortly and the list will be placed in both Libraries of the House.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department and its predecessor spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13017]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not hold any vacant property, and has not previously.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many transport-related fines her Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13282]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many chairs her Department and its predecessor purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12797]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was created in 1999. Records are held from 2006-07 onwards and are as follows:

	Number of chairs	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	8	816.86
2007-08	0	0
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	3	2,042.75

The five most expensive were:

1. £883.60

2. £659.76

3. £499.39

4/5. £79.00

The three chairs in 2009-10 were ergonomic chairs, purchased following occupational health assessments that deemed the chairs essential for the individuals concerned. They were procured through the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12725]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has not awarded any IT contract in the last five years. Its IT services are provided by the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the annual expenditure on vehicles of her Department was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12479]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has paid the following amounts on vehicles over the last three years:

	£
2007-08	132,366
2008-09	217,189
2009-10	184,009

The planned expenditure for 2010-11 is yet to be finalised. My office has already cancelled the car contracted for my use in London and we are currently looking at value for money options for the car used by myself and the Secretary of State in Wales.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by her Department in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12477]

Mr David Jones: Costs incurred by the Wales office for pension contributions in each of the last three financial years were:

	£
2007-08	429,007.42
2008-09	468,342.66
2009-10	528,261.02

The expenditure figure for 2010-11 is likely to be around £430,000.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many external training courses were attended by staff of her Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13281]

Mr David Jones: In the 12 month period from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010 officials in the Wales Office have attended 14 training courses. In addition a senior manager is undertaking a 12 month leadership programme at a cost of £10,500.

The cost of each course is broken down as follows:

£1,315.00
£464.13
£2,240.00
£450.00
£665.00
£176.25
£176.25
£395.00
£395.00
£395.00
£2,750.00
£39.50
£908.50
£908.50

Railways: Electrification

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date the Government informed the Welsh Assembly Government of its decision not to proceed with proposals to electrify the rail line between South Wales and London. [12034]

Mrs Gillan: No such decision has been taken.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the Government's decision on proposals for the electrification of the rail line between South Wales and London. [12035]

Mrs Gillan: I am meeting my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 9 September 2010 and I have recently written to my right hon. Friend regarding the issue of rail electrification.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department and its predecessor spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12979]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. We do not hold records on the amount spent on taxi fares prior to 2002.

My Department has spent the following amounts on taxis:

	£
2002-03	1,266
2003-04	1,154
2004-05	625
2005-06	2,321
2006-07	2,194
2007-08	3,424
2008-09	5,505
2009-10	7,038

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department and its predecessor spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12816]

Mr David Jones: There has been no Wales Office expenditure on wine since my appointment.

For previous, Wales Office records do not disaggregate the cost of wine from other expenditure for ministerial receptions.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much development aid his Department has allocated to Afghanistan in each year since 2002. [12762]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent aid in Afghanistan since 2002 as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	50.00
2002-03	74.50
2003-04	79.70
2004-05	80.40
2005-06	94.60
2006-07	96.40
2007-08	108.70
2008-09	129.80
2009-10	141.50
2010-11	128.00

The 2010-11 commitment will rise in light of the Prime Minister's announcement of a £200 million uplift up to 2013-14. However, allocations by year have not yet been finalised.

British Council

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any work undertaken by the British Council is classed as aid for the purposes of monitoring performance against the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to spend 0.7 per cent. of gross national income on aid. [11800]

Mr Duncan: Any work undertaken by the British Council that meets the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definition of Official Development Assistance (ODA) will be classed as aid for purposes of monitoring performance against the commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on aid.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11163]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) paid the following percentage of suppliers within 10 days of receipt of invoice in the last three months. DFID does not hold payment performance information against agreed payment terms or specifically relating to small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers.

	Percentage payments made within 10 days
April	90.52
May	91.9
June	93.63

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each year. [13309]

Mr Duncan: DFID had one transport related fine of £30 paid on behalf of staff. The payment was made in 2007.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12493]

Mr Duncan: The cost of pension contributions incurred by the Department for International Development (DFID) is as follows:

£

Financial year	*Total employers contributions (ASLCs) paid to the PCSPS (Classic, Classic+, Premium, Nuvos)*	*Total employers partnership contributions paid to the partnership providers (Scottish Widows, Standard Life, TUCI Prudential)*	*Employer's contributions to the PCSPS to cover death in service and ill health benefits of partnership optants (0.8%)*
2007-08	13,877,275	118,719	8,016
2008-09	13,961,146	136,123	9,762
2009-10	[1]14,330,381	167,021	12,598
2010-11[2]	14,652,877	172,424	12,138

[1] From financial year 2009-10, the Department for International Development has included the employer's pension contributions of its locally engaged overseas staff in the staff costs entry in its resource accounts. In 2009-10 these costs were approximately £225,000.

[2] Projected figures.

DFID has one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSCUK). No pension contributions were paid by CSCUK in the last three financial years. CSCUK does not plan to make pension contributions in 2010-11.

East Kilbride

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff at each *(a)* grade and *(b)* pay band are employed at his Department's offices at (i) Abercrombie House, East Kilbride and (ii) Palace Street, London SW1. [12162]

Mr Duncan: In the Department for International Development, grade and pay band are aligned. Therefore, the grade and the pay band are the same.

As at 30 June 2010 the numbers of Home civil service (HCS) staff in (i) Abercrombie House, East Kilbride and (ii) Palace street, London, by job grade, were:

Grade	*Pay band (£)*	*East Kilbride*	*London*	*Total*
SCS-G1A	£141,800-£277,300	0	1	1
SCS-G2	£101,500-£208,200	0	4	4
SCS-G3	£82,900-£162,500	0	13	13
SCS-G5	£58,200-£117,750	9	42	51
A1	£55,505-£68,221	35	129	164
A2	£43,985-£56,293	72	218	290
A2(L)	£36,700-£43,938	56	49	105
B1(D)-Fast Stream	£30,403-£36,377	5	25	30
B1	£26,830-£34,534	107	110	217
B2	£21,289-£27,317	103	97	200
C1	£18,622-£22,530	79	54	133
C2	£15,305-£19,200	8	12	20
Totals		474	754	1,228

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will ensure that the work of his Department's evaluation section will stay in East Kilbride. [12165]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) Evaluation Department will remain in East Kilbride with substantial changes to its role, size and staffing. Once established in 2011, the Independent Aid Watchdog will commission all independent evaluations, while the role of the Evaluation Department will focus on embedding rigorous evaluation within DFID programmes as part of a wider drive on evidence.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps have been taken to make his Department's evaluation section based in East Kilbride independent of his Department. [12166]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Once the Independent Aid Watchdog is established in 2011, it will commission all independent evaluations of the Department for International Development (DFID). DFID's Evaluation Department based in East Kilbride will continue to exist but its role will change significantly, from delivering evaluations to supporting policy and operational staff in embedding rigorous evaluation within DFID programmes.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he intends to retain the evaluation unit based at his Department's headquarters in East Kilbride. [11657]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) Evaluation Department based in East Kilbride will continue to exist with substantial changes to its role, size and staffing. Once established in 2011, the Independent Aid Watchdog will commission all independent evaluations, while the role of the Evaluation Department will focus on embedding rigorous evaluation within DFID programmes as part of a wider drive on evidence.

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had discussions with his Israeli counterpart on whether goods requested for import to Gaza by humanitarian agencies not listed in the publication Gaza: Dual Use Arrangements, published on 4 July 2010, have been denied access. [11539]

Mr Duncan: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had discussions with the Government of Israel regarding access for goods requested by humanitarian agencies for import to Gaza which are not on the dual use list.

Department for International Development (DFID) officials continue to raise the issue of access for humanitarian goods with the relevant Israeli authorities.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has requested information from his Israeli counterpart on whether any *(a)* humanitarian and *(b)* commercial items have been refused or delayed entry to Gaza by the Israeli authorities since the Israeli Prime Minister's announcement on 5 July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [11536]

Mr Duncan: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have requested information from the Government of Israel regarding humanitarian or commercial items that have been refused access or have been delayed.

Department for International Development (DFID) officials continue to raise the issue of access for humanitarian and commercial goods with the relevant Israeli authorities.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on *(a)* the access arrangements and *(b)* the daily number of laden goods vehicles transiting the Karni crossing to Gaza. [12842]

Mr Duncan: The only goods currently permitted through the Karni crossing into Gaza are those which can be transferred via the conveyor belt. This includes grain, animal feed, and aggregates.

Statistics compiled by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) show that 604 truckloads worth of goods entered Gaza through Karni between 1 and 23 August. With Karni currently operating two days per week, this equates to an average of 86 truckloads per day.

Data on import volumes into Gaza are published online by the UN at:

http://www.ochaopt.org/GazaCrossings.aspx?id=1010003

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he last made representations to the Israeli authorities on reopening the Karni crossing into Gaza; and what response he received. [12947]

Mr Duncan: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have discussed the Karni crossing with the Israeli authorities. In early August, senior officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) discussed Gaza with General Dangot, the Co-ordinator for Government Activities in the Territories. General Dangot cited security concerns as the reason for not fully reopening Karni.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the highest number of import and export truckloads passing through the Karni commercial crossing between Israel and Gaza between November 2005 and June 2007. [12948]

Mr Duncan: The United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that the period of greatest activity between November 2005 and June 2007 was 4 to 17 February 2006. An average of 414 truckloads of goods entered and 62 truckloads left Gaza through the Karni crossing each day it was operational during this period.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the reasons given by the Israeli government for not reopening the Karni crossing; and whether he has made an assessment of the reasons for its continued closure. [12951]

Mr Duncan: The Government of Israel has cited security concerns as the reason for not fully reopening the Karni crossing. The UK Government are continuing to work closely with the international community to assist in delivering practical solutions to the many access issues currently facing Gaza.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the truckload capacity of the Kerem Shalom crossing point for imports and exports to Gaza, excluding fuel. [12952]

Mr Duncan: According to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 924 truckloads of goods entered Gaza through Kerem Shalom in the period 8 to 12 August. The highest daily amount entering Gaza was 211 truckloads on 9 August. Since the beginning of August Israel has expanded the import capacity of Kerem Shalom to 250 truckloads. However there is currently no capacity for processing exports.

Data on import volumes entering Gaza are published online by the UN at

http://www.ochaopt.org/GazaCrossings.aspx?id=1010003

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the levels of access to Gaza for workers and for the import of humanitarian goods since Prime Minister Netanyahu's announcements of 20 June and 5 July 2010. [12021]

Mr Duncan: Since the announcements made by Prime Minister Netanyahu, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported an increase in the amount of goods entering Gaza, including humanitarian goods.

Humanitarian organisations continue to report delays in processing approvals for a number of items needed for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of vital infrastructure. Difficulties in obtaining the necessary visas or permits for the staff of humanitarian organisations to enter or leave Gaza have also been reported.

The UK is funding a United Nations team to work with the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, UN agencies and aid agencies to facilitate the transfer of goods and the movement of humanitarian workers.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had in the United Nations on his Department's contribution to the costs incurred by UN agencies in *(a)* providing food and other humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza and *(b)* transporting goods to Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing since June 2007. [13081]

Mr Duncan: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had discussions in the United Nations (UN) about the Department of International Development's (DFID) contribution to costs incurred by UN agencies in the provision of aid to Gaza, or for transporting aid through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

DFID funds a UN team who help co-ordinate and facilitate the movement of aid and other necessary items into Gaza to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

International Assistance: Climate Change

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will discuss with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury the continuation of the policy of the previous administration that not more than 10 per cent. of development assistance be used in respect of climate change. [11656]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Our position on climate finance is clear. Fast Start finance, covering 2010-12, will come out of Official Development Assistance (ODA), as committed by the previous Government. Climate finance beyond this period is to be determined as part of the UK's comprehensive spending review (CSR), which will report in the autumn.

Overseas Aid

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of reported official development assistance was spent by Government departments other than his Department in each year since 1997. [12433]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The percentage of Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by Government Departments other than the Department for International Development (DFID) in each year since 1997 is provided in the following table. This includes contributions from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence to the Conflict Pool, which is managed jointly by these Departments and DFID. Figures for 2009 also include a contribution from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to the Environmental Transformation Fund, which is also managed jointly with DFID.

	Percentage ODA
1997	2.6
1998	2.1
1999	2.1
2000	2.5
2001	2.3
2002	2.2
2003	2.9
2004	3.2
2005	2.3
2006	2.9
2007	3.9
2008	4.8
2009[1]	6.9

[1] 2009 figures are provisional. Final figures will be published in Statistics on International Development 2010.

Overseas Trade

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to publish a new strategy on trade and development. [12210]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills is developing a White Paper on trade. I will be working closely with him and with Lord Brittan, the Government's trade adviser, to ensure that this White Paper sets out an ambitious trade agenda that supports both UK businesses and wealth creation that advances global poverty reduction.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to retain the joint Department for International Development and Business, Innovation and Skills Trade Unit. [12211]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government will retain and strengthen the joint Department for International Development (DFID) and Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Trade Policy Unit.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11703]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID) annual publication "Statistics on International Development" (SID) gives details of DFID expenditure through civil society organisations, including trade unions. Details are in the following link:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/sid%202009/Table%2019.xls

Details of payments to civil society organisations for previous years can be found in back copies of SID, available in the House of Commons Library.

Similar information in relation to payments made in 2009-10 will be released in the new edition of Statistics in International Development, to be published in the autumn. Summary details of current DFID-funded projects are published on the Department's website:

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/

DFID provides one room for use by our full-time trade union official in our East Kilbride office and another room is available if required for trade union business in our London office.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11704]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not collate this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

DFID follows the ACAS code of practice "Time off for Trade Union Duties and Activities".

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11705]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not collate this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

DFID has one full-time member of staff allocated to trade union activities under a "facility time" agreement. This member of staff represents the departmental trade union side and members of both the First Division Association (FDA) and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS). In 2008-09 the salary of that staff member was in the range £25,000 to £30,000 a year; and in 2009-10 it was in the range of £30,000 to £35,000 a year.

DFID has three other staff who are elected trade union representatives. However, these individuals only spend a minimal amount of time on trade union activity. Details are recorded by line managers and are not collated centrally.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13038]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

However, the amount spent on the reimbursement of staff expenses for the period from 12 April 2010 to 31 July 2010 for the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its Executive NDPB, is £59,445.

The 10 largest individual staff expense reimbursement claims within the aforementioned period are listed in the following table:

Claim	*£*
1	806.48
2	706.15
3	693.40
4	689.84
5	650.70
6	638.10
7	604.11
8	603.15
9	601.71
10	599.20

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12346]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April 2010, neither the Department nor its non-departmental public body has sold any buildings or land.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13286]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) made the following percentage of payments to suppliers within 10 days of receipt of invoice:

Month	*Percentage*
July 2010	96
August 2010	[1]

[1] Not currently available.

It is not possible to provide the requested information in relation to August 2010.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [13000]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April 2010, the core Department occupied approximately 12.35 square metres of office space per employee in its offices in Belfast and London.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [13062]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office has made no payments for consultancy services.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13019]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April, the Department has not spent any money on vacant properties.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each year. [13288]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) did not settle any transport-related fines on behalf of its staff.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12799]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April 2010, the Department has not purchased any new chairs.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12726]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April, the Department has not abandoned any IT contracts.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12495]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

It is not possible to provide an accurate figure for planned expenditure during this financial year as the amount will depend on variants such as staffing changes which cannot be accurately predicted at this time.

We do however estimate that the cost of pension contributions for 2010-11 could be approximately £2.04 million for the Department and all of its sponsored bodies.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12347]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April 2010 to the end of July, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has spent a total of £547,754 on property rental. Of this amount, £133,129 was spent on properties in Belfast and £414,625 on properties in London.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13287]

Mr Paterson: From 12 April to 31 August 2010, two members of staff have attended external training courses at a cost of £746.63.

For the period 1 September 2009 to 11 April 2010, comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12981]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

From 12 April 2010 to 31 July 2010, the Department has spent £3,587 on taxi fares.

These figures exclude taxi fares paid by employees and reimbursed as miscellaneous expenses. These costs can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) keeps the cost of travel on official business under regular review. Departmental guidance requires all staff to use the most efficient means of transport.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12818]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April, the Department has spent £360.61 on wine.

JUSTICE

Civil Litigation Costs Review

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to complete his assessment of the implications of the principal recommendations of the report by Lord Justice Jackson on civil litigation costs; and if he will make a statement. [12299]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are very grateful to Lord Justice Jackson for his comprehensive report which makes a broad range of significant recommendations for reducing costs in the civil justice system. As I announced to the House on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 68WS, we will be consulting in the autumn on implementing Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations on the reform of funding arrangements. This will include in particular the recommendations on the significant reform of conditional fee agreements (CFAs) and other related proposals. The Government are taking these proposals forward as a matter of priority.

Prisoners: Video Games

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners have *(a)* gaming consoles and *(b)* digital televisions in their cells; and what channels are available to prisoners with televisions in their cells; [10265]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to prisons about the eligibility of prisoners in each category to have access to *(a)* Sky, *(b)* digital television and *(c)* gaming consoles in their cells. [10266]

Mr Blunt: The number of prisoners who have gaming consoles in their cells is not held centrally and could be found only at disproportionate cost.

Since 23 July 2008, no public money has been used to purchase games consoles or games. A one-off survey in 2008 identified that at that time over 11,000 prisoners had games consoles in their possession. This figure has not been updated since then and there are no plans to do so now that no consoles are provided at public expense.

Only prisoners on the enhanced level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme are allowed to have in possession or to use games consoles that have been purchased with their own money or given to them by family or friends. The current policy is set out in PSI 32/2008: Restricting Prisoner Access to Games Consoles which is available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Access to in-cell television is one of the key earnable privileges of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme. PSO 4000 Incentives and Earned Privileges sets out the current policy and is available in the Libraries of both Houses. Prisoners pay a rental charge for their television sets. Prisoners who do not reach the standards of behaviour expected lose their right to in-cell television.

No prisoners have digital televisions sets in their cells. In line with the rest of the population, prisons are preparing for the switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting. In the 62 establishments where digital channels are available, and where prisoners have earned Standard or Enhanced Privileges under the IEP scheme, prisoners have access to nine free-to-view channels in-cell. These are BBC1, BBC2, ITV1, Channel 4, Channel 5, Sky News Sport (E4 in female prisons), ITV3, VIVA and Film 4. Governors have discretion to change any of these channels to other free-to-view channels if they wish.

In addition a number of prisoners have non-subscription set top boxes bought with their own money. However, in October 2006, public sector prisons were instructed that no new set top boxes were to be allowed as they will not operate with the digital head-end conversion system, although existing ones could remain until the digital equipment was installed.

No prisoners in public sector prisons have satellite television in their cells. It is available in association areas only in two public sector prisons. In contracted prisons, approximately 4,070 prisoners had access to satellite TV in their cells as of 10 December 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of outstanding claims under the single payment scheme in each year of the operation of that scheme has been paid to claimants in the form of an advance. [11135]

Mr Paice: The information is not readily accessible and I will write with the information when it is available, with a copy being placed in the House Library.

Crime: Dogs

Greg Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce the use of attack dogs in criminal activity. [13091]

Mr Paice: The Government take the matter of dangerous dogs very seriously. A public consultation on dangerous dogs legislation closed on 1 June 2010. We are currently analysing the responses and will make an announcement about the way ahead in due course.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) her Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which her Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12336]

Richard Benyon: A table listing the freehold property interests that have been sold by (i) the Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies since 2005, the sale price and the body to which the receipt accrued, has been placed in the House Library.

This is a consolidated response for DEFRA, including its executive agencies, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much office space per employee her Department and its predecessor occupied in each year since 1997. [13002]

Richard Benyon: The amount of office space occupied per employee as measured by the mandated Office of Government Commerce Property Benchmarking exercise for DEFRA, for the years from 2004 is as follows. These figures include (from 2007-08) data for Natural England, one of our NDPBs, which is included in the OGC data.

	Square metre
2009-10	13.25
2008-09	12.70
2007-08	13.60
2006-07	12.70
2005-06	16.20
2004-05	14.80

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department and its predecessor spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13021]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has spent the following amounts on wholly vacant property that have been vacant for in excess of six months: £3,907,506 (2007-08); £5,548,874 (2008-09); £6,601,935(2009-10).

DEFRA is unable to supply the vacant property costs for the financial years prior to 2007-08 without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* her Department and (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which she is responsible in each region of England in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12474]

Richard Benyon: The cost of pension contributions incurred by the Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three financial years and planned expenditure for 2010-11 is shown in the following table. It has not been possible to split costs by each of the English Regions as this information is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost. Data are provided for those non-departmental public bodies that are required to submit a pay remit to the core-Department. Data for DEFRA's other NDPBs are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£

Organisation	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Core-DEFRA	25,321,000	22,757,000	19,192,000	16,600,000
Executive Agencies:				
Animal Health	8,940,000	8,789,000	8,728,000	7,997,000
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	959,000	989,000	1,019,000	1,001,000
Rural Payments Agency	12,900,000	13,400,000	12,600,000	11,100,000
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	6,106,000	6,075,000	5,965,000	5,906,000
Food and Environment Research Agency	3,227,000	4,359,000	4,413,000	5,017,000
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	2,777,000	2,855,000	2,829,000	2,873,000
Non-departmental public bodies:				
Commission for Rural Communities	489,000	431,000	523,000	523,000
Marine Management Organisation	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,294,000

£

Organisation	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Sustainable Development Commission	n/a	n/a	319,000	319,000
Consumer Council for Water	350,000	364,000	382,000	372,000
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	285,000	317,000	337,000	434,000
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	3,043,000	3,115,000	3,175,000	3,175,000
Natural England	12,806,000	13,553,000	13,789,000	13,789,000
Environment Agency	48,400,000	53,100,000	53,800,000	53,100,000
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	695,000	711,000	731,000	762,000

The Marine Management Organisation was created as a non-departmental public body on 1 April 2010. Prior to this the organisation's staff were part of the core-Department and their pension contributions are included in core-DEFRA figures.

The Sustainable Development Commission was created as a non-departmental public body on 1 April 2009. Prior to this the organisation's staff were part of the core-Department and their pension contributions are included in core-DEFRA figures.

The Food and Environment Research Agency was created on 1 April 2009. Data prior to this relate to the former Central Science Laboratory.

Planed expenditure on pensions contributions for 2010-11 is based on each organisation's current staff profile.

Departmental Public Bodies

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with public bodies within her Department's area of responsibility on the proposals to be contained in the Public Bodies (Reform) Bill. [12507]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies and reducing their number and cost. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has announced to Parliament a number of changes to the DEFRA delivery landscape. Ministers and officials from this Department have an ongoing dialogue with other Government Departments and DEFRA's delivery network including our arms-length bodies.

Discussions are taking place across Government about the appropriate means of effecting these changes and to inform planning. The Government expect to make an announcement on the proposed Public Bodies (Reform) Bill in the autumn.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid by her Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12337]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA paid the following amounts for the rental of property in each of the last five years in each of the categories requested above. This return includes Core DEFRA and Natural England.

(a) Total rent payable for DEFRA properties for past five years.

Financial year	*Total rent payable (£)*
2006-07	40,425,491
2007-08	41,637,039
2008-09	43,915,886
2009-10	43,798,400
2010-11	38,573,256

(b) (i) Total rent payable per Government Office Region for past five years.

£

Region	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
East Midlands	210,213	216,513	228,363	227,752	200,581
East of England	6,346,802	6,537,015	6,894,794	6,876,349	6,056,001
London	19,121,257	19,694,319	20,772,214	20,716,643	18,245,150
North East	1,370,424	1,411,496	1,488,749	1,484,766	1,307,633
North West	396,170	408,043	430,376	429,224	378,018
Scotland	153,617	158,221	166,880	166,434	146,578
South East	4,984,463	5,133,847	5,414,829	5,400,343	4,756,082
South West	2,409,359	2,481,567	2,617,387	2,610,385	2,298,966
Wales	270,851	278,968	294,236	293,449	258,441
West Midlands	335,532	345,587	364,502	363,527	320,158
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,826,804	4,971,462	5,243,557	5,229,529	4,605,647

(b) (ii) Total rent payable per country for past five years.

£

	Total rent payable		
Financial year	*England*	*Wales*	*Scotland*
2006-07	40,001,024	270,851	153,617
2007-08	41,199,850	278,968	158,221
2008-09	43,454,769	294,236	166,880
2009-10	43,338,517	293,449	166,434
2010-11	38,168,237	258,441	146,578

(c) Total rent payable for properties in London for past five years.

Financial year	*Total rent payable (£)*
2006-07	19,121,257.47
2007-08	19,694,319.22
2008-09	20,772,213.87
2009-10	20,716,643.34
2010-11	18,245,150.02

Garages and Petrol Stations: Rural Areas

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department monitors the number of petrol outlets in rural areas. [12932]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not collect this information, but the Commission for Rural Communities has commissioned independent analytical advice.

Their latest figures show:

In 2010, 34% of petrol stations are in rural areas (2,294 out of a total of 6,849).

Since 2009, the number of petrol stations decreased by 8% in rural areas and 4% in urban areas (5% in England).

In 2000, 81% of rural households were within 4km of a petrol station by road. In 2010, the percentage was 74%.

Inland Waterways

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will issue guidance to local authorities on responsibilities for the clearance and maintenance of waterways. [12683]

Richard Benyon: No. Local authorities that are navigation authorities are responsible for the operation and maintenance of waterways in their care. Where waterways are the responsibility of other navigation authorities, as is usually the case, local authorities can, according to their own priorities, choose to work in partnership with the navigation authority on issues such as the clearance of litter and debris alongside waterways.

In addition the Environment Agency has the power, in connection with a main river, to maintain any watercourse in a due state of efficiency where it deems it necessary to remove debris for the purpose of alleviating flood risk .

Inland Waterways: Leeds

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the Leeds and Liverpool Canal remains open; and if she will allocate funding to increase the level of maintenance of that canal. [12899]

Richard Benyon: Allocation of funding for the maintenance of the Leeds and Liverpool canal is a matter for British Waterways, which maintains its waterways using a risk based approach in order to ensure that its network remains in a reasonable and safe condition.

The present primary closure is due to severe drought causing depletion of the reservoirs feeding the canal, and British Waterways is doing all it can to conserve water levels. It will reopen the canal as soon as sufficient water supplies become available.

Private Roads: Almondbank

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's letter, ref mc178586, dated 19 April 2010, what progress has been made on discussions with the Scottish Executive on matters relating to the transfer of the solum of the roadway to Site 6 at Almondbank. [12207]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 856W.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's letter, ref mc167191/rt, dated 3 February 2010, what progress has been made on discussions with the Scottish Ministers on the issue of maintenance burdens on estate roads within the site 5/6 complex at Almondbank. [12208]

Richard Benyon: While the principle of release of maintenance burdens has been communicated to the Scottish Executive, there are currently no ongoing discussions in respect of the maintenance burdens associated with the estates roads serving Sites 5 & 6 Almondbank, Perthshire.

Sustainable Development Commission

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she held with the *(a)* Scottish Executive, *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* Northern Ireland Assembly Government in advance of the announcement to reduce the level of funding to the Sustainable Development Commission. [12204]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State wrote to the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland on 14 July 2010 to inform them that she was planning to announce on 22 July 2010 that she would be withdrawing funding for the Sustainable Development Commission. All of the Ministers replied to the letter.

The Secretary of State also had a phone conversation on 19 July 2010 with the Welsh Assembly Government's Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing to discuss the decision and future arrangements.

Whales: Conservation

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will assess the merits requiring fishermen to take steps to reduce the number of dolphins and porpoises killed as by-catch by means of *(a)* changes to net design and *(b)* the fitting of an acoustic deterrent to fishing craft; and if she will make a statement; [12572]

(2) what estimate she made of the number of *(a)* dolphins and *(b)* porpoises killed as bycatch in the last 12 months; what steps she is taking to reduce the level of cetacean by-catch; and if she will make a statement. [12573]

Richard Benyon: In 2009, our detailed monitoring programme indicated by-catch mortality figures of 260 common dolphins and 620 harbour porpoises in UK Waters.

The UK is committed to avoiding the by-catch of cetaceans wherever possible. We have and continue to undertake focused research and monitoring programmes to better understand, and so reduce, the incidental by-catch of cetaceans.

In terms of net design, as part of a five-year research contract between the Sea Mammal Research Unit and DEFRA that ended in 2008, research was conducted into modifications to fishing gear to reduce the by-catch of small cetaceans. This research produced inconclusive results, and highlighted the need to focus effort on developing more effective deterrents to prevent capture, such as acoustic devices.

The focus of our current research and monitoring is, therefore, to identify those fisheries responsible for high levels of cetacean by-catch, and to test acoustic deterrents that are effective at preventing cetacean bycatch in these fisheries. We are committed to finding an acoustic deterrent that is both safe for fishermen to use, and effective at deterring cetaceans from fishing gear, and eagerly await the results of this research, due in April next year.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the proportion of UK carbon dioxide contribution emissions attributable to *(a)* aviation, *(b)* road vehicles, *(c)* power stations, *(d)* industry and *(e)* domestic households. [12754]

Gregory Barker: The most recent year for which emissions estimates are available is 2008. These estimates were published as National Statistics on 25 March 2010.

The proportion of UK carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the sectors in question can be found in the following table. It should be noted that the figures for aviation represent domestic aviation only. We do produce an estimate of emissions from international aviation, but since there is no agreed international approach to doing so, these emissions are not included in the UK total.

Carbon dioxide emissions-by end-user sector

Sector	*CO_2 emissions (Mt)*	*Percentage of total*
Domestic aviation	2.4	0.4
Road transport	131.4	24.7
Power stations	—	—
Business/industrial process	198.8	37.3
Residential	145.7	27.3
Other sectors	54.5	10.2
Total	532.8	100.0

Carbon dioxide emissions from power stations totalled 173.2 Mt for the year (32.5% of total carbon dioxide emissions); these have been attributed to other "end-user" sectors in the table.

For further information, please see the following link.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/uk_emissions.aspx

Carbon Emissions: ICT

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the annual amount of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the IT industry. [12953]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not hold any data specifically in respect of emissions from the IT industry.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regard he has to pay scales for police forces set by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in establishing pay policy for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary; and if he will make a statement. [13070]

Charles Hendry: Pay policy for the CNC is the responsibility of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA), a non-departmental public body for which my Department is responsible.

CNC police officer pay scales and other terms and conditions are linked to relevant Home Office police terms and conditions, and remuneration is determined by the established link with the outcome of negotiations for the police negotiating body structure for Home Office Forces. The original principles determining the basic pay of members of CNC (up to and including Chief Superintendent ranks) is that it is linked to the pay of corresponding members of the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) which, in turn, is linked to that of Home Office Police taking account of the 95% weighting (i.e. MDP and CNC pay is set at 95% of Home Office Police force pay). Ranks above Chief Superintendent i.e. Chief Police Officer ranks have personally negotiated contracts that are aligned to Level 1.0 of the Police Negotiating Board agreed Chief Officer pay scales.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the strategic direction of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary; and if he will make a statement. [13071]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet representatives of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and the Civil Nuclear Police Authority on a regular basis to discuss the performance and strategic direction of the Constabulary.

DECC Ministers and officials work closely with relevant Government Departments on matters relating to the strategic direction and operation of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, including the Home Office, given its wider responsibilities for national security, counter terrorism and policing.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the safety of UK *(a)* nuclear sites and *(b)* nuclear materials. [13072]

Charles Hendry: The Government's policy is to secure the protection of people and society from the hazards of the nuclear industry by ensuring an appropriate regulatory framework is in place and by ensuring compliance with that framework through the actions of the health and safety regulator (the Health and Safety Executive). It is also the Government's policy to influence the nuclear sector to strive for continuous improvement in its health, safety and security performance.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements there are for the *(a)* oversight, *(b)* regulation and *(c)* strategic direction of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. [13073]

Charles Hendry: The Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) is responsible for operational policing to meet the regulatory requirements to protect UK civil nuclear installations and nuclear material during transport, it is the executive arm of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA), a non-departmental public body for which DECC is responsible.

The CNPA was set up by the Energy Act 2004, and came into being in April 2005. Its role is to "secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective constabulary" and the primary function of the CNC is to protect civil licensed nuclear sites and safeguard nuclear material during transport in the UK and elsewhere.

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) sets the regulatory requirements for the security of UK nuclear installations through the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (as amended). OCNS does so on the basis of the Nuclear Industries Malicious Capabilities (Planning) Assumptions (NIMCA) and assesses the vulnerabilities of individual civil nuclear installations, agreeing site security plans with holders of nuclear material and transport plans and the testing security arrangements at sites through exercises. These plans will include the role of the CNC at the sites where they are deployed.

In addition, the CNC is subject to inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. The CNPA is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the CNC. Under the Energy Act 2004, it is required to publish a Strategic Policing Plan each year setting out the Police Authority's medium and long-term strategies for policing by the Constabulary during the three year period beginning with that year. This plan must be sent to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

DECC Ministers and officials meet representatives of the CNC, CNPA and OCNS on a regular basis to discuss the performance and strategic direction of the Constabulary and the wider issues of ensuring there is a robust framework for civil nuclear security in the UK.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements exist between *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Home Department, *(c)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(d)* the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills on the operation of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. [13074]

Charles Hendry: DECC works closely with relevant Government Departments on matters relating to the operation of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, including the Home Office, given its wider responsibilities for national security, counter terrorism and policing. DECC also works as appropriate with the Health and Safety Executive, which regulates civil nuclear security, on matters relating to civil nuclear security, including the policing of civil nuclear sites. DECC works with other Departments as appropriate, including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which has a more limited interest via the Shareholder Executive's role with regard to those sites owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority where the Civil Nuclear Constabulary operates.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since its creation. [13046]

Gregory Barker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Since its creation on 3 October 2008, the Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent on reimbursement of staff expenses as follows:

	£
2010-11	340,408
2008-09	642,097
2009-10	200,142

(b) The 10 largest staff reimbursement claims by value are as follows:

	£
2008-09	4,060.15
	2,862.65
	2,104.94
	2,090.27
	2,012.49
	1,909.03
	1,875.04
	1,505.87
	1,438.91
	1,386.64
2009-10	6,396.00
	5,308.00
	3,669.12
	3,096.77
	2,855.33
	2,603.24
	2,516.20
	2,407.67
	2,396.46
	2,192.48
2010-11	5,133.58
	4,840.23
	3,924.05
	3,846.44
	3,775.04
	2,809.21
	2,616.91
	2,186.57
	1,584.71
	1,562.49

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12348]

Gregory Barker: The information requested is as follows:

(i) The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not own land and buildings.

(ii) The Department is responsible for four non departmental public bodies of which the Committee on Climate Change and the Civil Nuclear Police Authority have not disposed any former buildings or land since May 2005.

Land and Buildings disposed by the Coal Authority and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority are shown in the following table.

The buildings that the NDA has sold since May 2005 are:

	Address	*Sale value (£)*
2009	Northbanks House, Thurso, Caithness	360,000
2009	Peakes Cottage, Bradwell, Essex	603,000
2008	Gridyard, Capenhurst, Cheshire	205,000
2010	Redundant Breakheart Quarry, Gloucestershire	0
2010	Sports and Social Club, Springfields, Lancashire	198,000
2006	Depot, Littlebrook, Kent	350,000
2010	Springfields Nuclear Site	[1]—

[1] Not sold—transferred on a long lease, including staff and pensions liability

Land NDA has sold since May 2005 is:

	Address	*Sale value (£)*
2009	Potential development land at Bradwell, Essex	160,000,000

Note:
Above are subject to commercial confidentiality clauses.

The buildings that the Coal Authority has sold since May 2005 are:

Date	*Address*	*Sale value (£)*
25 July 2006	146 Holcombe Drive, Burnley, Lancashire	70,300.00
13 November 2006	Shaftholme Pumping Station, Shaftholme Road, Shaftholme, Doncaster, South Yorkshire	1.00
22 January 2007	The former Clipstone Colliery pit head baths and canteen, Clipstone, Notts	1,028,808.00
06 March 2007	22 Jamphlars Road, Cardenden, Fife	500.00
07 March 2008	Caerphilly Tar Plant, Caerphilly, South Wales	1.00
08 April 2008	2 Amorys Holt Close, Maltby, Yorks	34,000.00
14 April 2008	3 Pentwyn Terrace, Crumlin, Newport, Gwent	10,000.00
26 May 2008	2 Hawthorne Avenue, Coalsnaughton, Tillicoultry,	10,000.00
14 October 2008	Askern Hydro—Site of Alexander House/ Doncaster Rural Trust Youth Centre	0.00
20 October 2008	145 Torbothie Road, Shotts, Lanarkshire ML7 5NB	1,000.00
17 June 2010	Maesteg Washery, Maesteg, Bridgend County Borough (See also LTAF 2001)	170,000.00

Land that the Coal Authority has sold since May 2005 is:

Date	*Address*	*Sale value*
12 May 2005	Land at Bryn Dolwen and Llanfabon Drive, Bedwas, Caerphilly	1.00
24 May 2005	Cuttlehill Farm (The Taft), Crossgates, Fife	150,000.00
22 July 2005	Disposal former Bolsover Colliery Tips, Woodhouse Lane, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire	260,157.00
16 August 2005	Land rear of 70 Benhar Read, Shott's, Lanarkshire	1,000:00
5 October 2005	Former Ystrad Mine, Glanamman,- Ammanford, Carmarthenshire	4,000.00
22 November 2005	Land to the West of Newark Road, Ollerton at the former Ollerton Colliery site Notts	0.00
24 November 2005	Park Hall Road, Denby, Ripley, Derbyshire (Part of the former Denby Hall Colliery site)	4,000.00
29 November 2005	Two sections of track at Polbower, Kirkconnel, Sanquahar, Dumfriesshire	0.00
1 December 2005	Land at Polkemmet Minewater Treatment Facility, Whitburn, West Lothian	40,000.00
2 December 2005	Land at the rear of Corporation House, Corporation Road, Loughor, Swansea	500.00
5 December 2005	150m² or thereabouts of land situate within the curtilage of 46 Westfield Lane, Kippax, Leeds, West Yorkshire	0.00
8 December 2005	Deed of surrender, Pipeline at Station Road, Shiremoor, Co Durham	0.00
2 February 2006	Land adjacent to 63 High Street, Swallownest, Sheffield, South Yorkshire	1.00
17 February 2006	Land at Rosehill, Standburn Road, Avonbridge, Falkirk, Stirlingshire	5,000.00
8 March 2006	Land at Derran Drive/Bridgend Place/The Craigs	4,400.00
12 April 2006	Land at Manchester Road West, Little Hulton, Greater Manchester, Lancashire	15,000.00
22 May 2006	Access road No. 32 and 32a Douglas Street, Carluke, Lanarkshire	2,300.00
25 May 2006	Site of Brierley Industrial Park, Stoneyford Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottingham	13,500.00
1 July 2006	Frances Colliery, Dysart, Kirkcaldy, Fife	11,500.00
18 August 2006	Disposal land at Nantgarw, near Caerphilly	10,000.00
23 October 2006	Land at the former Maypole Colliery, off Park Lane, Abram, Wigan, Lancashire	50,000.00
23 October 2006	Land at the former Maypole Colliery, off Park Lane, Abram, Wigan, Lancashire (Supplementary toLTAFDoc.No.1727)	0.00
21 November 2006	Land off Rotherham Road, New Houghton, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire	30,000.00
27 November 2006	Site of the former Whitwell Colliery Spoil Heap, Whitwell, Derbyshire	0.00
1 December 2006	Plot 3 Cardiff Road, Aberaman, Aberdare	20,000.00
20 December 2006	Land at Taff Merthyr Garden Village (Land omitted from previous sales before privatisation therefore would not have transferred under CARS7)	1.00
21 December 2006	Lots 1 to 6 at the former Erownlees Opencast Site, Brindley Ford, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire	169,000.00
11 January 2007	Land situated off Berry Hill Lane Berry Hill, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire	390 000.00
5 February 2007	Land at Hengoed Avenue, Crfn Hengoed, Hengoed, Mid Glamorgan	1,500.00
13 February 2007	Land at Whittlebrook Reservoir, rear of 98 Hopefold Drive	1,080.00
19 February 2007	Land at Whittlebrook Reservoir, rear of 92 Hopefold Drive	1,180.00
1 March 2007	0.572 acre or thereabouts of land, being part of the former Warsop Colliery access road at Warsop Vale, Mansfield	196,196.00
1 March 2007	0.03 acre or thereabouts of land off Doncaster Road, Buckingham Road, Denaby, Doncaster, South Yorkshire	0.00
1 March 2007	Land at Whittlebrook Reservoir, rear of 90 Hopefold Drive	2,840.00
14 March 2007	Land at Whittlebrook Reservoir, rear of 94 Hopefold Drive	880.00
16 March 2007	Winstone Mine, Forgeside, Blaenavon	8,000.00
15 May 2007	Land at Delves Lane, Consett, County Durham	20,000.00

Date	*Address*	*Sale value*
15 May 2007	Land at Lumley Sixth Pit, Woodstone Village, Fence Houses, Houghton-le-Spring	15,000.00
6 July 2007	Land adjacent 18 Lawrence Street, Kelty, Fife KY4 OAB	250.00
1 August 2007	Land at Kirk Road, Shotts, Lanarkshire	12,500.00
16 August 2007	Land adjacent Hafod Tip, Wrexham	250.00
10 December 2007	Land at Heol Brown, Ty Croes, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire	100.00
11 January 2008	Land at Roman Way, Dordon, Tamworth, Staffordshire	22,500.00
18 January 2008	Land at 8 Kirton Court, Kirton, Overton, Notts	600.00
24 January 2008	Land off Westerton Road, Coundon	3,000.00
29 January 2008	Land at South Stane Farm, Shorts, Lanarkshire	0.00
15 February 2008	Land at Hill Street, Rhymney, Tredegar	45,000.00
31 March 2008	0.0002 Ha or thereabouts of land off Shaftesbury Avenue, Keresley End, Coventry, Warwickshire	0.00
7 April 2008	Camphill Estate, Nuneaton	0.00
8 April 2008	Site of the former 14 and 16 Ivy House Lane, Bilston, West Midlands	46,000.00
8 April 2008	Walkden Reservoir, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester, Lancashire	34,000.00
8 April 2008	Land between 29 and 31 The Crescent, Sunnyside, Rotherham	72,000.00
8 April 2008	Plots of the former 5-9 Brynhyfryd Street, Cwmnaman, Aberdare, South Wales	52,000.00
4 Jun 2008	Torbothe Footpath, off Southfield Avenue, Torbothe, Shorts, Lanarkshire	0.00
23 July 2008	Land adjoining Calverton Miners Welfare, Hollinwood Lane, Calverton, Nottinghamshire	1.00
24 July 2008	Land at Coalville Estate, Weston Coyney, Stoke on Trent	1,000.00
4 August 2008	Land adjoining Tyn y Wern, Ynysybwl, Pontypridd	250.00
4 August 2008	Land adjacent to Glendale, Oakley, Fife, KY12 9LA	4,500.00
15 August 2008	Land at Golwg-y-Bryn, Severn Sisters, South Wales, (via auction—reserve value £5,000)	5,000.00
15 August 2008	Land at Tonna Road, Nantyffyllon, South Wales (via auction—reserve value £30,000)	30,000.00
1 September 2008	Allotments Gardens and Land at Terrace Lane, Pleasley, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire	7,000.00
21 October 2008	Land at Tan-y-Coed Street, Penrhiwceiber, South Wales (via an auction held by Colliers CRE in London on 21 July 2008)	25,000.00
28 October 2008	Land at Blackfaulds Road and Wardlow Street, Coalsnaughton, Clackmannanshire	300,000.00
20 November 2008	Land to the West of Newark Rd, Ollerton at the Former Ollerton Colliery Site, Notts	0.00
1 December 2008	The site of 272 Cwmamman Road, Glanamman, Ammanford, SA18 2AF	6,000.00
12 December 2008	Aber Farmlands, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend, South Wales	95,000.00
12 December 2008	Land adjacent to No 11 South View, Mickley Square, Stocksfield	0.00
12 January 2009	Land off The Leazes, Burnopfield, County Durham	0.00
25 March 2009	Land at Sherwood Baths, Mansfield Woodhouse, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG19 7NL	0.00
8 May 2009	0.085 Hectare of land being access to Woodside House, Bramcote, Waron, Tamworth, Staffordshire	1,111.00
26 May 2009	Land at the rear of School Road, Banwen, Neath	0.00
5 August 2009	Land at Beighton Sheffield	4,500.00
24 September 2009	0.34 hectares or thereabouts being part of the land at Coach Road, Ripley, Derbyshire	3,000.00
19 October 2009	Disposal Walkmill Lane Tip, off Walkmill Lane, Cannock, Staffordshire	25,000.00
21 December 2009	Land At Ashby De La Zouch and Measham	51,124.00
31 December 2009	West Main Street, Blackburn, West Lothian	1,500.00
26 January 2010	Land at 4 Heol Graigwen, Penyrheol, Caerphilly	0.00
10 May 2010	Land adjacent to Nottingham Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire	14,000.00
17 Jun 2010	Additional strips of land at Maesteg Washery, Maesteg, Bridgend (See also LTAF 1914)	0.00

The value at current prices could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The income from disposals is normally credited to the Delegated Expenditure Limit (DEL) of the Department and reduces the requirement for funding by the Treasury. For two Coal Authority disposals totalling £218,300, the income from disposals originally funded from grant in aid was paid to the Treasury.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much office space per employee his Department has occupied in each year since its creation. [13008]

Gregory Barker: DECC was formed in October 2008 and London based staff moved into the Department's headquarters, 3-8 Whitehall place, London, SW1A 2AW, between March and June 2009.

The office space per employee (based on net internal area) for Whitehall place, London and Atholl house 86-88 Guild street, Aberdeen, AB11 6AR was 10.0 square metres at 1 June 2009 and 8.5 square metres at 1 June 2010.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department has been in each year since its inception. [12666]

Gregory Barker: The Department is unable to answer this question on the grounds that to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since its creation. [13027]

Gregory Barker: The Department has had no vacant properties in its estate since it was created in October 2008.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many chairs his Department has purchased since its creation; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12807]

Gregory Barker: DECC was formed in October 2008 and London based staff moved into the Department's headquarters, 3-8 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW, between March and June 2009.

In financial year 2009-10 1,093 chairs were purchased by DECC.

The total cost for the above chairs was £262,000 excluding VAT.

The five most expensive chairs purchased were special chairs for staff required under health and safety advice. The cost of these were as follows: £953.04, £913.73, £909.27, £887.23, £857.22 excluding VAT.

From April 2010 to date 25 chairs were purchased by DECC.

The total cost to date is £8,500 excluding VAT.

The five most expensive chairs purchased to date were special chairs for staff required under health and safety advice. The cost of these were as follows: £874.96, £848.52, £810.40, £802.25, £744.65 excluding VAT.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which IT contracts awarded by his Department since its inception have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12707]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not abandoned any IT contracts.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each region of England and (D) Northern Ireland was in the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12490]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not incurred any expenditure on vehicles since it was established on 3 October 2008 and does not plan to in 2010-11. The Department is responsible for four non-departmental public bodies which have incurred expenditure as follows:

1. The Committee on Climate Change has spent nothing on vehicles since its inception on 26 November 2008 and has no plans to spend anything in 2010-11.

2. The Coal Authority spent £190,592 in 2007/08, £186,019 in 2008/09, £193,639 in 2009-10 and the planned expenditure for 2010-11 is £234,220. The breakdown by regions can be provided only at disproportionate-cost.

3. The expenditure incurred and planned by the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) by regions is shown in the following table:

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (planned)*
CNPA				
Wales	—	21,769	—	—
Scotland	70,234	65,520	45,394	209,000
East Midlands—n/a	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	21,769	—	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	45,688	—	23,000
Greater London—n/a	—	—	—	—
North East England—n/a	—	—	—	—
North West England	145,645	210,118	69,751	178,000
South East England	25,739		48,880	95,000
South West England	—	44,159	22,697	—
West Midlands—n/a	—	—	—	—
Northern Ireland—n/a	—	—	—	—
Total	241,618	409,023	186,722	505,000
NDA				
Wales	—	—	—	—
Scotland	—	—	—	—
East Midlands—n/a	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—
Greater London—n/a	—	—	—	—
North East England—n/a	—	—	—	—
North West England	24,909	36,503	31,316	12,156
South East England	3,324	3,324	3,267	3,256
South West England	—	—	—	—
West Midlands—n/a	—	—	—	—
Northern Ireland—n/a	—	—	—	—
Total	28,233	39,827	34,583	15,412

Departmental Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what average hourly rate his Department has paid to each employment agency for agency staff in each year since its inception. [12708]

Gregory Barker: The Department is unable to answer this question on the grounds that to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each region of England and

(D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12489]

Gregory Barker: Since its establishment on 3 October 2008, the Department of Energy and Climate Change has incurred pension contributions of £7,559,000 in 2008-09 and £8,639,000 in 2009-10. The projected cost for 2010-11 is £9,606,000.

The pension contributions incurred in the last three years by non-departmental public bodies for which the Department is responsible are shown in the following table. The breakdown of costs by region and devolved Administration is not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£

NDPB	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (projected)*
The Committee on Climate Change (established on 26 November 2008)	n/a	59,552	261,060	290,000
The Coal Authority	957,071	1,043,397	1,042,530	1,067,345
Civil Nuclear Police Authority	4,083,291	4,376,972	4,812,218	5,281,378
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	7,145,000	4,507,000	4,716,000	5,000,0000

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12349]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not paid any rent to third parties since it was formed in October 2008.

Electricity: Prices

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to reduce electricity prices for *(a)* domestic and *(b)* industrial consumers by 35 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [12518]

Gregory Barker: Artificially reducing retail prices to levels below the competitive levels would be unsustainable, discourage investment in the low carbon infrastructure we require and put at risk our climate change objectives. What matters is that prices are set in a competitive market as a result of rivalry among a range of suppliers.

Ofgem produce a quarterly update on the link between wholesale and retail energy prices precisely in order to increase levels of pricing transparency. The latest report showed the major suppliers have cut their prices in response to falling wholesale prices and that margins were lower than in the previous quarter. Ofgem has said that if suppliers stopped competing on price or domestic prices did not respond to a sustained fall in wholesale prices, it would look closely at the market.

Competition is vital to keeping bills as low as possible. Ofgem continues working to reduce barriers to entering the retail market and is closely monitoring the wholesale market.

Energy: Meters

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* energy monitors displaying real time data on consumption are provided with each smart meter installation, *(b)* smart meter customers are provided with information on using smart meters to reduce their (i) energy bills and (ii) carbon dioxide emissions and (c) consumers' energy data will (A) remain under the control of consumers and (B) be protected from misuse. [12422]

Charles Hendry: The Department and Ofgem are currently consulting on a range of smart metering proposals. These include proposals relating to consumer information, including in-home displays, and to data privacy and security. The proposals are contained in the Smart Metering Implementation Programme Prospectus and a number of supporting documents, published on 27 July 2010, and available at

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations

Energy: Prices

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals in the Energy and Green Economy Bill to ensure the provision of information on the costs transferred by energy suppliers to consumers. [12361]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to improving the transparency of energy bills and improving information to consumers to help them understand and control their energy costs and are currently considering the extent of the information that should be included. Ofgem have produced readily available factsheets explaining energy bills which give a breakdown of the costs that make up consumer bills. Some suppliers have chosen to include example cost breakdowns on bills to improve transparency and we would encourage this.

In addition, we have recently published an analysis of the estimated impacts of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills, which provides further information on the costs of these policies. A copy of this is available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/236-impacts-energy-climate-change-policies.pdf

Fuel Poverty: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in Wimbledon constituency were classified as living in fuel poverty in each year since 2000. [12941]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty is measured at household level rather than at individual level.

The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 2,200 fuel poor households in the Wimbledon constituency. In 2003 there were around 2,100 fuel poor households in the Wimbledon constituency. The methodology used for the 2006 work differs from that previously used, so care should be taken in comparing the fuel poverty levels in one area between 2003 and 2006.

Figures for other years are not available.

Human Tissue Analysis in UK Nuclear Facilities Inquiry

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 38W, on the Redfern Inquiry, when he expects to publish the Inquiry's report on human tissue analysis in UK nuclear facilities; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish the report. [12860]

Charles Hendry: It was originally the intention of DECC to publish the Redfern Inquiry report on human tissue analysis in UK nuclear facilities before the summer recess. However as we wish to publish the report as a parliamentary paper, the date of publication was dependent on the parliamentary timetable. The parliamentary timetable came under great pressure and it was therefore not possible to find a suitable time before recess. I now expect to publish the report after the House returns in the autumn.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many former mineworkers in *(a)* Don Valley constituency, *(b)* Doncaster and *(c)* South Yorkshire have received coal health compensation scheme payments; and what the total sums paid were in each case. [12689]

Charles Hendry: The number of former miners in Don Valley, Doncaster and South Yorkshire who have received payments under the Coal Health Compensation schemes for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF), together with compensation claims for other conditions and the amount paid in each of those areas is shown in the following table as at 25 July 2010.

Total claims and damages paid, less compensation recovery unit (CRU) to miners in the Don Valley, Doncaster and South Yorkshire constituencies

	Number of claims			Damages paid (£)		
Area	*COPD*	*VWF*	*Other*	*COPD*	*VWF*	*Other*
Don Valley	8,1108	7,481	1,473	34,570,581	38,161,147	1,553,706
Doncaster	34,859	14,807	6,148	149,566,317	166,737,911	6,331,154
South Yorkshire	54,697	22,072	9,448	224,448,470	238,661,148	9,963,020

Notes:

1. Don Valley: (Don Valley)
2. Doncaster: (Barnsley East and Mexborough, Don Valley, Doncaster Central, Doncaster North).
3. South Yorkshire: (Don Valley, Doncaster Central, Doncaster North, Barnsley East and Mexborough, Wentworth, Rotherham, Rother Valley, Sheffield Hillsborough, Sheffield Heeley, Sheffield Hallam, Sheffield Brightside, Sheffield Attercliffe, Sheffield Central).
4. The figures show a small reduction to the data reported for VWF total damages in November 2009 (11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 517W). This was due to taking into account CRU payments where an issue was identified in a recent reconciliation exercise. Other movements are associated with data cleansing of claim numbers and/or changes of claimant addresses.

Nuclear Power: International Co-operation

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which countries the UK has a nuclear co-operation agreement; what assistance the UK has provided to each such country under the terms of the agreement in each of the last five years; and at what cost to the public purse in each such case. [12684]

Charles Hendry: The UK currently has in force seven Nuclear Cooperation Agreements (NCAs) on the general application of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; these are with the USA, Russia, Japan, Jordan, China, South Korea and Romania. In addition, an NCA with the United Arab Emirates is expected to be signed in the autumn. NCAs are bilateral treaties designed to enable collaborative working between companies and agencies in both states covering civil nuclear trade and information exchange. Detailed records of any assistance provided are not kept centrally except where export licences are involved. The only cost to the public purse would be that spent on negotiating NCAs and as such would be considered part of normal civil service operating expenditure.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for future levels of public funding for renewable energy; if he will take steps to establish more co-ordinated and long-term funding for renewable technology; and if he will make a statement. [12362]

Gregory Barker: We are committed to securing a significant increase in investment in renewables both to meet the legally binding renewable energy target in 2020, and to meet our longer term decarbonisation objectives. The Government are currently conducting a detailed appraisal of the way the electricity market should be designed, to provide the necessary consistent, long term signals for investment. The coalition agreement makes clear our commitment to establish a full system of feed-in tariffs in electricity—as well as the maintenance of banded renewables obligation certificates (ROCs). We are also fully committed to taking action on renewable heat. We are considering responses to the renewable heat incentive (RHI) consultation and will set out detailed proposals on how we propose to take forward action on renewable heat through the spending review.

The Low Carbon Innovation Group was established with the key aims of setting the strategic direction and coordinating funding for UK low carbon innovation, including renewables. I am co-chairing this group and membership will include the chief executives of the Carbon Trust, Technology Strategy Board, Energy Technologies Institute, research councils and departmental officials responsible for BIS and DECC low carbon innovation spend.

Levels of future public funding are being considered as part of the spending review process.

Renewables Obligation

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans that renewable obligation certificates rates agreed when energy producers begin a new project should continue at a fixed rate for the life of the project. [12049]

Gregory Barker: With the exception of stations which:

co-fire regular biomass;

use bioliquids;

use energy crops; or

receive additional support for the use of CHP,

all eligible renewable technologies will be grandfathered at the level of support they receive on accreditation.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will extend the renewables obligation scheme to other low-carbon sources of energy, including nuclear power. [12717]

Charles Hendry: As announced in the Annual Energy Statement on 27 July the Electricity Market Reform Project will issue a consultation document in the autumn. There, we will set out the Government's views on how to ensure low carbon, secure and affordable electricity over the coming decades. Any reform to the renewables obligation to include other sources of low carbon energy would be considered within that consultation document.

Sustainable Development: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has provided to *(a)* Transition Towns and *(b)* other voluntary groups designed to increase sustainability through local activities in the last 12 months. [12894]

Gregory Barker: DECC has provided funding to Transition Towns and other community organisations over the last 12 months through the Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) and the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP).

The LCCC is a two-year DECC-funded research programme providing financial and practical support for 22 "test-bed" communities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to test delivery options for achieving ambitious cuts in carbon emissions at community level. The first selected projects were appointed in December 2009.

Of the 11 communities that have been provided with funding so far, seven are community based civil society organisations. One of these is Transition Town Totnes, which has been provided with £625,000 to support their project. The other six civil society-led organisations have been provided with a total of £2,593,000 in funding for their projects.

The Low Carbon Buildings Programme—now closed to new applications—provides grants for installing microgeneration technologies and has provided funding for approximately 5,000 community-based projects over the last five years. In the financial year 2009-10, DECC provided £20.58 million in funding through the LCBP to projects such as housing associations, schools, churches, and other not-for-profit organisations, and the forecast expenditure for the financial year 2010-11 is £53.41 million.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on taxi fares in each year since its creation. [12989]

Gregory Barker: Since inception the expenditure on taxi fares incurred by Department of Energy and Climate Change is as follows:

Financial year	£
2008-09[1]	56,032
2009-10	73,946
2010-11[2]	25,618

[1] Department created October 2008.

[2] To end July 2010.

Warm Front Scheme

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on enabling small businesses to work as contractors on projects funded under the Warm Front scheme. [12153]

Gregory Barker: Installers are appointed to work on the Warm Front Scheme by Eaga, the scheme manager. An open, competitive tendering exercise was carried out in 2009 to appoint installers to the scheme to work across England. From time to time Eaga may select additional installers to work on the scheme, if supply is insufficient to meet demand.

Contractors can apply to work as sub contractors to installation companies already approved to work on Warm Front and can register their interest with Eaga for any future tendering.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the Warm Front scheme; and if he will make a statement. [12749]

Gregory Barker: Warm Front continues to deliver heating and insulation work across England. We have taken the precautionary measure of making changes to the regulations governing the scheme to allow the scheme to temporarily stop taking new applications to prevent this year's budget being over committed.

The future of Warm Front beyond March next year will be considered as part of the spending review.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of the contribution of the Warm Front scheme to *(a)* improving household energy efficiency and *(b)* reducing fuel poverty. [12912]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Front Scheme tackles fuel poverty, enabling households to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost. Warm Front has assisted over 2.2 million households since the scheme's inception in 2000. On average, each household which received assistance from the scheme has the potential to save over £350 per annum during the lifetime of measures installed.

Household energy efficiency is measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) which rates on a scale of 1 to 100—the higher the number the better the rating. Households assisted by Warm Front in 2009-10 increased their SAP rating on average from 33 to 66.

Warm Front Scheme: South Yorkshire

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Don Valley constituency have received an insulation measure through the Warm Front scheme since its inception. [12748]

Gregory Barker: Warm Front has assisted 823 households in the Don Valley constituency with insulation measures since its inception[1].

[1] This figure is correct up to 17 August 2010.

Wind Power

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the efficiency and effectiveness of on-shore wind turbines in the last 10 years; how much electricity was generated by wind turbines in the last 12 months; and what the average cost per unit of electricity generated by each generating technology was in 2009. [12128]

Charles Hendry: The Department for Energy and Climate Change, and two of its predecessor departments (the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department of Trade and Industry) commissioned the following pieces of research containing information on the generation costs and efficiencies of electricity generation technologies, including onshore wind:

ETSU (2002) New and Renewable Energy: Prospects in the UK for the 21st century: Supporting Analysis, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/policy/renew_obs/key_stages/ro_order_2002/ro_order_2002.aspx

Oxera/ DTT (2004) Results of Renewable Energy Modelling, available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/tna/+/http://www.dti.gov.uk/renewables/policy/oxeraresults.pdf

Enviros (2005) The costs of supplying renewable energy, available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file21118.pdf

Energy Strategies and Redpoint (2006), Dynamics of GB Generation Investment, available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file31799.pdf

Ernst & Young (2007), Impact of banding the Renewables Obligation - Costs of electricity production, available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39038.pdf

Redpoint and Trilemma (2008), Implementation of the EU2020 Renewable Target in the UK Electricity Sector - Renewable Support Schemes, available here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_res/rescon_support/rescon_support.aspx

Redpoint and Trilemma (2009), Implementation of the EU2020 Renewable Target in the UK Electricity Sector - RO Reform, available here:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update.pdf

The Department does not formally evaluate the research of other organisations.

The Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2010 reports that in 2009 7.6 TWh of electricity was generated by onshore wind and 1.7 TWh by offshore wind.

The following tables are taken from Mott Macdonald (2010) and give levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices.

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either 'FOAK' (first-of-a-kind) prices or 'NOAK' (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology. On offshore wind, for example, it shows offshore wind 'FOAK' prices, whereas the round 2 technology may be considered to have progressed towards 'NOAK' prices. Mott Macdonald estimate 'NOAK' offshore wind costs at £125/MWh (10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices).

Case 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS FOAK*	*ASC coal*	*ASC coal with CCS FOAK*	*Coal IGCC FOAK*	*Coal IGCC with CCS FOAK*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind FOAK*	*Offshore wind R3 FOAK*	*Nuclear PWR FOAK*
Capital Costs	12.4	29.8	33.4	74.1	61.7	82.0	79.2	124.1	144.6	77.3
Fixed operating Coals	3.7	7.7	8.6	18.6	9.7	17.7	14.6	36.7	45.8	12.25
Variable Operating Costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	4.7	3.4	4.6	—	—	—	2.1
Fuel Costs	46.9	65.0	19.9	28.7	20.3	28.3	—	—	—	5.3
Carbon Costs	15.1	2.1	40.3	6.5	39.6	5.5	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	4.3	—	9.6	—	9.5	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	80.3	112.5	104.5	142.1	134.6	147.6	93.9	160.9	190.5	99.0

Case 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

Levelised Cost	*Small business power only: FOAK*	*Large biomass power only: FOAK*	*OCGT*	*AD on wasted*	*Landfill gas*	*Sewage gas*	*Small biomass CHP: FOAK*
Capital Costs	55.8	46.1	7.1	63.8	25.8	42.0	91.3
Fixed operating Coals	21.0	13.4	3.0	21.0	13.1	8.9	23.9
Variable Operating Costs	2.5	2.5	1.5	18.6	21.1	2.1	2.8
Fuel Costs	36.7	31.2	60.6	—	—	—	54.9
Carbon Costs	—	—	18.2	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CO_2 transport and storage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	148.5
Total levelised cost	116.0	93.2	90.5	103.3	60.0	54.0	172.9
Net levelised cost	—	—	—	—	—	—	24.4

Levelised Cost	*Large biomass CHP: FOAK*	*10MW gas: CHP*	*Small GT based CHP*	*CCGT: CHP*	*Energy from waste*	*Hydro reservoir*
Capital Costs	86.8	17.2	15.1	14.3	94.9	74.2
Fixed operating Coals	22.0	4.8	4.3	5.0	15.2	9.0
Variable Operating Costs	2.4	2.4	2.4	1.9	56.7	—
Fuel Costs	48.7	83.4	76.8	57.1	—	—
Carbon Costs		25.5	23.5	18.5	—	—
Decomm and waste fund			—	—	—	—
CO_2 transport and storage			—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	135.0	56.6	45.2	27.2	—	—
Total levelised cost	160.0	133.4	122.1	96.7	166.8	83.2
Net levelised cost	24.9	76.8	76.8	69.4	—	—

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on wine in each year since its creation. [12826]

Gregory Barker: The Department has no record of any purchases of wine since it was created in October 2008.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will record figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan. [11117]

Dr Fox: The UK Government do not collate or publish figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan because of the immense difficulty and risks of collecting robust data. Every effort is made to avoid civilian casualties and any that are the result of action by UK armed forces are always a matter of profound regret.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Reaper, *(b)* Predator and *(c)* Phoenix unmanned aerial vehicles were deployed by the armed forces in Afghanistan in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010; [11788]

(2) what estimate he has made on the number of *(a)* Reaper, *(b)* Predator, *(c)* Watchkeeper and *(d)* Phoenix unmanned aerial vehicles to be deployed by the armed forces in Afghanistan in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014 and (v) 2015. [11790]

Dr Fox: In Afghanistan, UK forces have deployed Reaper, a remotely piloted air system (RPAS). They do not use Predator or Phoenix systems.

We do not comment on the number of RPAS deployed or likely to deploy in Afghanistan. I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Air Force: Military Bases

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Ministry of Defence personnel and *(b)* civilian staff were directly employed at (i) RAF Leuchars, (ii) RAF Kinloss and (iii) RAF Lossiemouth on the latest date for which figures are available. [11636]

Mr Robathan: The figures of personnel who are directly employed at RAF Leuchars, RAF Kinloss and RAF Lossiemouth are shown in the following table:

Data as of April 2010

Location	*Personnel*	*Total*[1]
Leuchars	Civilian[2]	270
	Armed Forces[1]	980
Kinloss	Civilian[2]	310

Data as of April 2010

Location	*Personnel*	*Total*[1]
	Armed Forces[3]	1,330
Lossiemouth	Civilian[2]	370
	Armed Forces[3]	1,810

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Personnel Administration System, the armed forces figures are provisional.

[2] The civilian figures include the Ministry of Defence (MOD) industrial and non-industrial staff, but do not include any staff not directly employed by the MOD, such as contractors.

[3] The armed forces personnel figures include regulars and full-time reservists stationed at the bases, but may differ from the actual number of people working at that location at that time due to deployments etc.

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been stopped and searched outside RAF *(a)* Menwith Hill, *(b)* Fylingdales, *(c)* Mildenhall, *(d)* Lakenheath, *(e)* Feltwell, *(f)* Fairford, *(g)* Molesworth, *(h)* Alconbury and *(i)* Croughton in each year sine 2000. [11874]

Mr Robathan: The number of people stopped and searched by the Ministry of Defence police (MDP) outside RAF Menwith Hill, Fylingdales, Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Feltwell, Fairford, Molesworth, Alconbury and Croughton in each year since 2004 are shown in the table as follows:

	Menwith Hill	*Fylingdales*	*Mildenhall*	*Lakenheath*	*Feltwell*	*Fairford*	*Molesworth*	*Alconbury*	*Croughton*
2004	2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2005	382	2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2006	186	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2007	247	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2008	98	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2009	103	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7
2010	34	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] None recorded

There are no recorded searches carried out prior to 2004. The records relate only to MDP incidents. Searches carried out outside the bases are primarily the responsibility of the local Home Office police forces, and they would retain their own records accordingly.

Aircraft Carriers

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has undertaken of the procurement processes for the *(a)* Type 45 destroyers and *(b)* Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers; what steps he plans to take in the light of that assessment to improve the procurement process for the Type 26 combat ship; and if he will make a statement. [12783]

Peter Luff: In 2006, a review of the Type 45 programme led to the renegotiated six ship contract, which was signed in 2007. During the same year, the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier project underwent independent assurance, which concluded that the project was progressing well and at a more mature stage of development than previous major naval projects prior to manufacture. Linked with this work was an independent financial review, which concluded the costs were robust. However, as reported in the National Audit Office's Major Projects Report 2009, the decisions taken in 2008 to delay the Queen Elizabeth class directly increased costs by an estimated £674 million.

The procurement lessons learned from these reviews are currently being applied to the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carrier and the Type 26 projects.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has allocated to the electromagnetic catapult system project; and for which Royal Air Force aircraft it would be suitable. [12863]

Peter Luff: Since 2003, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has allocated around £4.75 million to the electro-magnetic catapult technology demonstrator programme, which is due to complete in November 2010.

The MOD has not allocated any funding to the United States Electro-Magnetic Aircraft Launch System, although it maintains an interest in US progress through information exchanges.

An electro-magnetic aircraft launch system would be capable of launching Carrier Variant type aircraft, although neither the Royal Navy nor the Royal Air Force operate this type of aircraft at present.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review will define the future shape and role of the armed forces and the equipment that they will need.

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee *(a)* was established and *(b)* is to be dissolved; and whether there are any plans to replace the Advisory Committee. [12873]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Armed Forces Day

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to review the arrangements his Department put in place to mark Armed Forces Day in 2010; what representations he has received on the events which took place; what plans he has to recognise the contribution of veterans in future years; and if he will make a statement. [12551]

Mr Robathan: Armed Forces Day this year was a great success and we are continually looking for enhanced levels of participation and recognition for future days. Ex-service personnel are at the very heart of all celebrations with many taking the opportunity to stand alongside their serving counterparts.

The National Event in 2011 will be in Edinburgh and plans are currently being formulated that will once again give the whole country the opportunity to honour Britain's armed forces past, present and future.

Armed Forces: Families

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which organisations his Department has funded to provide welfare and support for the families of service personnel serving in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each of the last 10 years. [12001]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Each armed forces' establishment has dedicated unit welfare staff who, as serving personnel, are ideally placed to provide access to specialist welfare support on a number of topics including financial management, housing, and schooling of dependants. The Army Welfare Service, Naval Personal and Family Service and Royal Marines Welfare, and RAF Community Support provide more focused support and ensure families are put in touch with, and supported by, the most appropriate agency. Moreover, formal arrangements exist with organisations such as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) or HIVE Information Centres who complement the unit welfare staff when dealing with specific issues.

In addition, arrangements may be made at a local level with other welfare organisations, for example Relate, to respond to specific unit needs. As the information is not held centrally to identify all organisations which have received funding in each of the last 10 years, it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress has been made by his Department on increasing the level of support services available to the parents of serving military personnel; [12574]

(2) what support services are offered to parents of service personnel who are not named by those personnel as next of kin; [11985]

(3) what information is available to parents of serving military personnel who are on active service who are not named by those personnel as next of kin; [11986]

(4) whether his Department provides support services to the parents of military personnel under *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 24 years of age. [11988]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Support to a family, irrespective of the age of the service person, is not necessarily limited to the next of kin as we will do everything we can to inform, help and advise a family not only prior to, but also during, a deployment. This normally includes a briefing by the Unit Commander on the deployment, as well as giving details of websites that allow family members to keep in touch. Single service welfare organisations are signposted and contact details provided for the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre.

Should tragedy occur, it is only right that we focus our immediate attention on the recorded next of kin. Support begins by early notification and then the allocation of a visiting officer who can help with, for example, funeral arrangements, money management such as compensation payments, and accessing welfare organisations that can provide bereavement counselling. The support provided is specific to need and remains in place for as long as it is required.

If appropriate, visiting officer support, including counselling, can be extended to parents who are not recorded as next of kin regardless of whether they live together or not.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to increase the level of counselling and advice services provided to mothers of service personnel under the age of 21 years. [12575]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Support to families is kept under continual review and where there is a specific need we will do all we can to meet it. Our duty of care extends to all our armed forces and we do not differentiate by age when determining what support is available.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department allocated to each organisation for the purpose of providing support services to the families of service personnel in each service in each of the last 10 years. [12576]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The information is not held centrally. Support to families is provided from a number of sources, some of which are arranged at a local level and funded accordingly. To determine the level of funding provided in each of the last 10 years would require the search of records retained at a significant number of military establishments. Therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* bearing of hospital specialists was for each (i) regular and (ii) reserve service in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [1310]

Mr Robathan: While shortfalls exist in some specialties, the Defence Medical Services have met all the operational requirements placed on them. Medical support to deployed operations is absolutely vital and there is no question of British forces deploying on military operations without the appropriate medical support.

Where a particular specialty is in short supply within the Defence Medical Services to support deployed operations, a flexible manning approach is used drawing upon regular personnel, reserves and allied forces and on occasions a limited number of civilian contractors are deployed to support operations and to backfill positions in the United Kingdom to allow uniformed personnel to deploy.

The information for regular service in each year since 2001 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Data for reservists are not readily available prior to September 2008 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information for each year since 2008 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Housing

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Army accommodation was in each condition category at the latest date for which figures are available. [11125]

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of accommodation for Royal Navy personnel was in each condition category on the latest date for which figures are available; [11130]

(2) what proportion of Royal Air Force accommodation was in each condition category on the latest date for which figures are available. [11124]

Mr Robathan: A breakdown of the number of service family accommodation (SFA) properties and single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces by both condition category and service is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, for the total number of SFA properties at each standard for condition, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 617W to my hon. Friend the Member for Castle Point (Rebecca Harris).

SLA bed-spaces are graded according to their condition and scale which includes a number of factors like size and amount of storage space.

Currently SLA is at the following grade:

Grade	*Bed-spaces*
1	41,311
2	16,832
3	25,817
4	62,853

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on refurbishing armed forces accommodation in each of the last five years. [11127]

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department has allocated for refurbishing armed forces accommodation in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [11128]

Mr Robathan: "Refurbishment" is not a term used by the Ministry of Defence in regard to property. However, so far as the upgrading of service family accommodation and single-living accommodation is concerned, I refer the hon. Members to the answers I gave on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 344-45W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain) and 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 345W, to the hon. Member for Ellesmere Port and Neston (Andrew Miller).

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many housing units there are for staff use at his Department's Abbey Wood site; [11131]

(2) what expenditure his Department incurred on the provision of each type of housing for each rank of personnel at its Abbey Wood site in the latest period for which figures are available. [11132]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence currently holds 230 private finance initiative properties, across three estates, to meet the entitlement of service personnel based at Abbey Wood. Housing is allocated mainly by rank for officers and by family size for other ranks, and cannot be broken down in the form requested.

The cost of providing this accommodation for financial year 2009-10 was £6.3 million, which includes rent, repair and maintenance.

There are a further 23 other ranks and nine officers' service family accommodation (SFA) properties across the Bristol area. These properties are leased from Annington Homes Ltd. at a total rental cost of £120,800 per year.

When demand outweighs supply and no suitable SFA can be found, as a last resort substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) may be offered to service personnel within the appropriate distance from their duty station. As at July 2010, 13 SSFA were being used to house service families posted to Abbey Wood, at a cost of £14,356 per calendar month. The number and costs of substitute accommodation fluctuates on a daily basis.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for how long each vacant services property assigned to each service and in each location has been vacant; and what the five most frequently given reasons for such vacancies in each such category are; [11254]

(2) how many void units of service accommodation there are *(a)* in each service and *(b)* at each location. [11256]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of providing armed forces accommodation on *(a)* the Falkland Islands and *(b)* Gibraltar was in the latest period for which figures are available. [11255]

Mr Robathan: It is not possible to identify spending on armed forces living accommodation alone for these locations. These costs are paid from a single estate budget covering all Permanent Joint Operating Bases, which also includes office accommodation, utilities infrastructure, and port and airfield maintenance. The budget for the Falkland Islands also covers the UK military facilities on Ascension Island.

Total estates costs for financial year 2009-10 were as follows:

British Forces South Atlantic Islands: £14.4 million.

British Forces Gibraltar: £13.7 million (including £2.5 million for utilities).

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on renting private sector accommodation for armed forces personnel in the latest period for which figures are available. [11364]

Mr Robathan: While the majority of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in Scotland and Northern Ireland are owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), other UK properties are leased from the private sector through various arrangements, including private finance initiatives and from Annington Homes Ltd.

As a last resort, where suitable SFA or Single Living Accommodation does not exist in an area or is temporarily unavailable, Substitute SFA (SSFA) and Substitute Single Service Accommodation (SSSA) may be rented from the local rental market.

In financial year (FY) 2009-10, the cost of providing SFA, SSFA and SSSA was as follows:

Type of accommodation	*Number of properties*	*Cost in FY 2009-10 (£ million)*
SFA	42,060	184
SSFA	1,524	22
SSSA	4,803	56

The MOD also currently rents 5,423 SFA properties overseas through various different arrangements, the total cost of which is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties are rented from the Crown Estate to provide armed forces accommodation; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [11367]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence currently occupies 168 properties from the Crown Estate to house entitled service personnel and their families under a longstanding notional agreement with the Crown Estate, whereby no rental costs are incurred.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of accommodation for armed forces personnel his Department has on Gibraltar. [11368]

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many units of accommodation for armed forces personnel his Department has on the Falkland Islands; [11369]

(2) how many units of accommodation for armed forces personnel his Department has in Cyprus. [11370]

Mr Robathan: The number of service family accommodation (SFA) properties and (SLA) bed-spaces in the Falklands, Cyprus and Gibraltar are given in the following table:

	Number of SFA properties	*Number of SLA bed-spaces*
Falklands	73	1,896
Cyprus	2,176	1,698
Gibraltar	440	510

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties are rented from the Duchy of Cornwall to provide armed forces accommodation; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [11371]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not rent any properties from the Duchy of Cornwall for the provision of armed forces accommodation.

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on void accommodation for each of the armed services in the latest period for which figures are available; and at which locations there is void accommodation. [11372]

Mr Robathan: The total expenditure on void single living and service family accommodation, which includes that on rent, maintenance, modernisation and utilities, is not separately identifiable from that on all other accommodation.

Void accommodation is located at many different sites across the defence estate and is usually only void for short periods to allow for routine moves of service personnel, improvement or modernisation work, demolition, or disposal. The Department will always need to maintain a management margin of void accommodation for these purposes.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties are rented from the Duchy of Lancaster to provide armed forces accommodation; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [11373]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not rent any properties from the Duchy of Lancaster for the provision of armed forces accommodation.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred in providing armed forces accommodation in Cyprus in the last 12 months. [11570]

Mr Robathan: It is not possible to identify spending on armed forces living accommodation alone for the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas. These costs are paid from a single estate budget covering all Permanent Joint Operating Bases, which also includes office accommodation, utilities infrastructure, and port and airfield maintenance.

Total estates costs for financial year 2009-10 in British Forces Cyprus were £42.4 million.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many housing relocations have taken place in the last 12 months; and what the cost of such relocations was to his Department. [11864]

Mr Robathan: Civilian staff who are transferred to a new permanent place of work outside of reasonable daily travel of their current home, may be eligible for assistance with relocating to the new area. In the period 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010, there were 233 relocations which involved a move of home.

Information regarding the cost of the aforementioned relocations is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Training

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the trends in his Department's expenditure under its Defence Training Review contract between 2008 and July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [12132]

Nick Harvey: The current estimate of the cost of the Defence Training Rationalisation Package 1 Project is £14 billion compared to the £12 billion reported on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1807W. This represents the cost for the provision of the construction of new facilities at St Athan and the whole operating costs for the entire 30 year life of the project. These operating costs include staff, catering and maintenance costs, the majority of which we already carry today. The increase in costs since 2008 results from the substantial increased cost of finance, increased provision for risk, and the changed assumption for inflation throughout the life of the project.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving military personnel are under 21 years of age. [11987]

Mr Gerald Howarth: At 1 June 2010, there were 22,110 (rounded to nearest 10) members of the armed forces under the age of 21 years.

Further information on the ages and sex of the armed forces is available in TSP 8 published annually by the Ministry of Defence's Defence Analytical Services and Advice which can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=80&pubType=1&date=2010-06-10&PublishTime=09:30:00

Bowman Combat Radio System

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Bowman radios of what monetary value have been reported lost in each of the last two years. [12929]

Peter Luff: Four Bowman radios have been lost in the last two years with a value in the region of £80,000.

Defence Industrial Strategy

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the new Defence Industrial Strategy on small and medium-sized enterprises. [12057]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will form the baseline for determining the capabilities that we need now and in the future. After the SDSR has completed in the autumn, and before the end of the year, we intend to publish a Green Paper on our defence industry and technology policy. The Green Paper will build on the SDSR conclusions, and ongoing discussions with industry and others. This will include our thinking on exports, sovereignty and small and medium-sized enterprises—and issues arising from the SDSR itself. There will then be a formal period of consultation, to allow industry, the public and other interested parties to express their ideas and concerns. A White Paper setting out our industrial policy and strategy for the next five years will then be brought forward in spring 2011. Ministers are determined to use this process to enhance the opportunities for SMEs.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes to the Defence Industrial Strategy he is considering as part of the Strategic Security and Defence Review. [12293]

Dr Fox: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will form the baseline for determining the capabilities that we need now and in the future. After the SDSR has completed in the autumn, and before the end of the year, MOD will publish a Green Paper on industry and technology matters. This will build on the SDSR conclusions and ongoing discussions with industry and others. It will include our thinking on exports, sovereignty, and small and medium-size Enterprises—as well as issues arising from the SDSR itself. There will then be a formal consultation period to allow industry, the public, and other interested parties to express their ideas and concerns. A White Paper setting out the MOD's industrial and technology policy and strategy for the next five years will then be brought forward in spring 2011.

Defence: Manpower

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of defence expenditure in 2010-11 is allocated to costs related to *(a)* Army personnel, *(b)* Royal Navy personnel, *(c)* Royal Air Force personnel and *(d)* all his Department's staff. [12106]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence's forecast expenditure in 2010-11 for personnel costs is shown in the following table:

	Personnel costs (£ million)
Royal Navy	1,900
Army	5,300
RAF	2,200
Tri Service allowances[1]	200
Civilian	2,700
Total	12,300

[1] Some allowances for service personnel cannot be split by service.
These figures are forecasts and are, therefore, subject to change. They include salaries and wages, social security costs, pension costs, and redundancy and severance costs.

Defence: Trade Unions

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he has had with trades union representatives of employees in the UK defence sector as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [12556]

Dr Fox: None.

We have consulted widely on the Security Defence and Security Review and invited comment from all interested parties, including the trade unions. I and my ministerial colleagues meet regularly with trade union representatives, and I intend to meet them again in the coming months.

Departmental Accountancy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he takes to ensure that his Department meets international financial reporting standards. [12930]

Dr Fox: The departmental resource accounts are compiled in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual ensuring compliance with international financial reporting standards as adapted for the public sector.

The 2009-10 departmental resource accounts were qualified by the Comptroller and Auditor General because the Department has not complied with the new accounting requirements for determining whether a contract contains a lease and has therefore omitted a material value of assets and liabilities from the statement of financial position (previously known as the balance sheet).

The Department has assessed that the impact on the financial statements is likely to be material but the cost of the additional work exceeds the benefits of compliance. The number and complexity of existing contracts, together with likely difficulties in obtaining information required from third parties, would make compliance costly and time-consuming.

In order to move towards achieving compliance, the Department is applying the new accounting requirements to contracts agreed on or after 1 April 2010. However, given the length of some of the Department's existing contractual arrangements, it may be a number of years before compliance is achieved.

In all other respects the 2009-10 departmental resource accounts comply with international financial reporting standards.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12326]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the list of land and property sold by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and its agencies in each year since 2005 has been placed in the Library of the House. All sale proceeds have been accrued by the MOD.

Departmental Billing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the time taken by contractors employed by it to pay the invoices of their sub-contractors under prompt payment arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [9258]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence does not hold any central information on the time taken by contractors to pay their sub-contractors. However, we are working closely with contractors to ensure that sub-contractors receive payment promptly.

We remain committed to paying invoices within five working days and continue to work closely with our contractors to ensure that the benefits are felt by all in the supply chain.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [13007]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Data on how much office space per employee the department occupied prior to 2007 are not held. Since April 2008, the Ministry of Defence in common with all other central Government Departments has participated in the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Property Benchmarking Service, which captures office space utilisation of occupied offices that have a net internal area over 500 metres. This information is shown in the following table:

	2007-08	*2008-09*
Number of buildings benchmarked	21	23
Total occupied space (square metres)	259,796	272,683
Space per member of full-time equivalent staff (square metres)	13.6	13.1

Data for 2009-10 are currently undergoing validation. I will write to my hon. Friend when these data are available.

Departmental Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* ATHENA, *(b)* Export Services Authority, *(c)* People, Pay and Pension Agency, Defence e-Government Services and Financial Management Shared Service Centre, *(d)* Ministry of Defence Education Outreach Programme and *(e)* Met Office stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12832]

Mr Robathan: The approximate costs of Ministry of Defence participation in Civil Service Live 2010, including the cost of stand hire, materials and staff travel[1], was as follows:

[1] This excludes the costs of travel for MOD employees that visited Civil Service Live 2010, and represents only the travel costs associated with those responsible for the exhibitions.

	£
Athena	7,700
Disposal Services Authority	6,200
People Pay and Pensions Agency/Defence electronic Procurement Services/Financial Management Shared Services Centre shared stand	6,900
MOD Education Outreach Programme	3,600
Met Office	14,800

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [12487]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Departmental expenditure on external assistance has been as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2005-06	226
2006-07	129
2007-08	120
2008-09	106
2009-10	79

This information is published in an annual report on expenditure on external assistance which we have placed in the Library of the House since 1995-96. We do not hold information individually by non-departmental public body and executive agency, but the annual report does give an expenditure breakdown for each of our top level Budgets and Trading Funds.

External assistance includes management consultancy, specialist lawyers, commercial bankers and IT expertise. Consultants help us to increase our efficiency and effectiveness, but we employ them only when we cannot do the work ourselves and where we can demonstrate value for money.

All spend on consultancy will comply with the tighter controls announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May 2010 and is expected to reduce further.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [12661]

Mr Gerald Howarth: We contract for external assistance with consultancy companies to deliver a specific output at an agreed price. The daily rate paid to individual consultants is a commercial matter for the contractor involved.

All spending on consultancy will comply with the tighter controls announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May and is expected to reduce further.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of his Department's contracts with its suppliers which have been cancelled under his Department's plans to achieve cost savings. [11407]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently reviewing all aspects of defence activity as part of the Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The conclusion of the SDSR is likely to require the MOD to renegotiate specific contracts, but no decisions have yet been made. In the interim, the MOD is participating in the actions announced by the Chancellor on 24 May to reduce public spending.

The MOD has not yet cancelled any contracts as part of this programme of work.

However, the MOD has suspended two projects. These are the search and rescue helicopter contract, at £4.7 billion, and long lead items for the Trident replacement programme, at £66 million.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13026]

Mr Gerald Howarth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, information relating to properties currently vacant on the civil office estate across the department is held. As of July 31 2010 the position was:

Property name	*Town*	*Vacant space (m^2)*	*Description*	*Rental value £ million (equivalent and/or total)*
Sapphire House	Telford	1672	4th floor open plan offices	[1]0.89
Sapphire House	Telford	622	Ground floor open plan office suite	[1]

[1] Indicates a brace

The lease on this property expires in March 2011 and it has not proved possible to find a temporary use for the building.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12806]

Peter Luff: Furniture-related data for the financial years prior to 2002-03 are not held in a form that would enable information relating to chairs to be separately identified. The number and cost, excluding VAT, of chairs procured in each complete financial year since then is as follows:

Financial years	*Quantity*	*Cost (£ million)*
2002-03	73,872	5.6
2003-04	79,872	6.1
2004-05	72,685	5.6
2005-06	57,741	4.7
2006-07	75,172	4.0
2007-08	44,137	2.6
2008-09	60,190	3.9
2009-10	54,095	3.8

The figures relate to a range of seating including: lounge chairs for messes and barracks; dining chairs, armchairs, settees and child highchairs for service families accommodation; orthopaedic chairs; office chairs; and reception area seating. They do not include private finance initiative or public private partnership projects, where the furniture is supplied by the industrial partner and not charged direct to the Ministry of Defence, but included in the overall costs of the project.

The five most expensive seating items purchased in each financial year from 2002-03 onwards were: orthopaedic office chairs; armchairs for operational crew rooms; large settees for reception areas; three-seater settees for Service family accommodation; and specialist fire retardant operator chairs for use in underground, windowless accommodation.

Departmental Pay

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 179W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3250]

Mr Gerald Howarth: From 1 August 2010 the salary range of the staff employed at each grade in the private office for each Minister is as follows:

		£
Grade	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
Secretary of State for Defence		
SCSPB1	58,200	117,750
B1 (Grade 6)	58,693	72,185
B2 (Grade 7)	49,860	59,535
C1 (SEO)	37,073	44,268
D (EO)	24,364	29,092
Minister of State for the Armed Forces		
B2 (Grade 7)	49,860	59,535
C1 (SEO)	37,073	44,268
D (EO)	24,364	29,092
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans		
B2 (Grade 7)	49,860	59,535
C2 (HEO)	30,428	36,333
D (EO)	24,364	29,092
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology		
B2 (Grade 7)	49,860	59,535
C1 (SEO)	37,073	44,268
D (EO)	24,364	29,092
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for International Security Strategy		
C1 (SEO)	37,073	44,268
C2 (HEO)	30,428	36,333
D (EO)	24,364	29,092
The private office of the Under-Secretary of State and Lords Spokesman on Defence	[1]—	[1]—

[1] The composition was not finalised at the time of the previous reply, 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 179-80W.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each region of England and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12486]

Mr Robathan: The pension costs of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the on-Vote Defence Agencies are provided in the following table:

				£ million
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (estimated)*
MOD (including the on-Vote Agencies below)	1,825.0	1,849.0	2,046.0	2,175.0
Defence Storage & Distribution Agency[1]	14.4	12.6	12.2	n/a
Defence Vetting Agency	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9
MOD Police & Guarding Agency	39.7	40.5	40.3	39.9
People, Pay & Pensions Agency	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.7
Service Children's Agency	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.6
Service Personnel & Veterans Agency	5.7	5.1	5.3	5.1

[1] The Defence Storage & Distribution Agency was disestablished on 31 July 2010.

The pension costs of our Trading Funds are as follows (the Trading Funds lie outside our departmental accounting boundary and these costs are not therefore included in the MOD total in the previous table):

				£ million
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Defence Support Group[1]	n/a	14.8	13.6	14.6
Defence Science & Technology Laboratory	22.2	23.5	23.5	26.2
Met Office	11.2	12.1	12.2	12.4
UK Hydrographic Office	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.9

[1] The Defence Support Group was formed on 1 April 2008 from the merger of the Army Base Repair Organisation and the Defence Aviation Repair Agency.

We disclose the information above in our Annual Reports & Accounts and those of our on-vote Agencies and Trading Funds. Copies of Annual Reports and Accounts are placed in the Library of the House. A regional breakdown of pension costs is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We do not contribute to the pension costs of the non-departmental public bodies we sponsor, except for the small number of civil servants supporting our advisory non-departmental public bodies. Their costs are included in the MOD total and could be provided separately only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Private Education

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department were in receipt of the continuity of education allowance in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was in respect of staff *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* posted overseas. [11481]

Mr Robathan: In financial year 2008-09, currently the last full year in which figures are available, there were approximately 6,000 (rounded to the nearest 20) service personnel in receipt of continuity of education allowance (CEA). The figure of 6,000 cannot be effectively broken down into UK based and overseas without incurring disproportionate cost, as a number of personnel moved during the academic year.

The cost of CEA to the Department in respect of staff in the UK and posted overseas in financial year 2008-09 was:

Location	*£ million*
UK	[1]155.4
Overseas	[2]17.4
Total	172.8

[1] The Department paid £64.7 million in tax and national insurance (NI) to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs on behalf of UK based personnel in financial year 2008-09.

[2] Overseas CEA is not subject to tax or NI.

Civilian schooling allowance is only paid to Ministry of Defence civilian employees appointed overseas. Payment ceases on return to the UK. Approximately £1 million was paid in 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent in total in each *(a)* nation and *(b)* region of the UK in each of the last five years. [12377]

Mr Robathan: Estimated direct Ministry of Defence (MOD) expenditure for the nations of the United Kingdom and the regions for the latest five years where data are available are presented in the following tables. These estimates cover MOD expenditure on equipment, non-equipment, service and civilian personnel costs.

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Nation:					
United Kingdom	23,720	23,630	25,540	26,080	25,920
England	21,010	21,120	22,890	23,450	23,310
Scotland	1,720	1,640	1,710	1,630	1,560
Wales	430	360	380	410	390
Northern Ireland	550	510	560	590	660
Regions of England:					
East	2,460	2,380	2,660	2,440	2,250
East Midlands	760	790	990	940	950
London	1,670	1,810	1,440	1,440	1,610
North East	400	350	390	440	370
North West	2,190	1,960	1,920	2,360	2,140
South East	5,880	6,210	7,100	6,940	7,110
South West	5,650	5,750	6,350	6,560	6,510
West Midlands	1,000	910	970	1,180	1,250
Yorkshire and Humberside	990	970	1,060	1,150	1,130

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. All totals have been calculated using unrounded data.
3. Indirect expenditure, such as subcontracted work, is not reflected in these figures.
4. Personnel costs exclude contributions made by MOD to the Armed Forces Pensions scheme and War Pensions scheme.

The Ministry of Defence no longer compiles estimates of expenditure at the sub-UK areas described in the tables presented as they do not directly support policy making or operations. The last estimates relate to 2007-08.

As a result, the complex data analysis required to produce the underlying sub-UK expenditure data is no longer performed. To produce a comparable time series beyond 2007-08 would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7157]

Dr Fox: In the budget the Government announced plans to reduce the regulatory burden and to review all regulation inherited from the previous Government.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently reviewing its secondary legislation in two areas. Firstly, regulations governing the Service Pensions and Compensation Schemes are reviewed annually and updated where necessary. This includes implementing the recommendations of Admiral the Lord Boyce in his review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme laid before Parliament in February 2010. Also being reviewed are existing Defence byelaws and other local instruments in relation to land occupied for Defence purposes.

Although regulations made by the MOD rarely impact on business, the reviews within these policy areas will be conducted in the spirit of this announcement, to ensure fairness and to provide clarity and consistency.

Finally, the 'Your Freedom' website launched by the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010 will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal, in order to reduce the regulatory burden.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12327]

Mr Robathan: As at 30 June 2010, there were 65,019 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide and as at 31 March 2010, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 146,813 Single Living Accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces.

While the majority of SFA in Scotland and Northern Ireland are owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), other UK properties are leased from the private sector through various arrangements, including Private Finance Initiatives. SLA is owned and controlled by the MOD.

Where suitable SFA or SLA properties do not exist in an area or are temporarily unavailable, as a last resort Substitute SFA (SSFA) and Substitute Single Service Accommodation (SSSA) is also rented from the local rental market.

The total cost of SSSA, SFA or SSFA properties in the UK provided through these arrangements is only available for the last four years, presented in the following table:

Financial year	*Number*	*Cost (£ million)*
2006-07	48,258	225.5
2007-08	48,321	241.5
2008-09	48,965	254.9
2009-10	48,387	261.9

The MOD also currently rents 5,423 SFA properties overseas. Information regarding the rental costs for overseas SFA, as well as details of the rent paid broken down by region, nation of the UK or in London are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

SSFA and SSSA numbers have increased due to a greater requirement for accommodation from the Armed Forces in locations were SFA and SLA does not exist or is not available to meet the increased demand.

Information on the rent paid for other types of property is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees in each year since 1997. [7653]

Mr Robathan: Training and development is an integral part of the Ministry of Defence's core business whether it is providing essential job training for our civilians or training our armed forces in order to maintain a state of readiness to conduct operations in any part of the globe. In order to meet this requirement our armed forces personnel need to remain in a state of constant readiness. The MOD addresses this requirement through what is known as phase training of which there are three stages.

Phase one training is basic military training carried out at a specialist site and will last approximately seven weeks.

Phase two training is specific job or trade training in the individual's choice of branch, for example pilot, engineer, medic etc. This training is again carried out at a specialist site and can take months or years to complete depending upon the branch trade.

Phase three is continuation training which service personnel undergo to increase their knowledge in a specialist area.

Annual information for each year dating back to 1997 along with a breakdown below departmental level is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the MOD's estimated spend on training in financial year 2009-10 was £3.3 billion. Of this, £2.5 billion was spent on military training covering phases one to three. A further £665 million was spent on other training requirements including recruitment, resettlement and cadet forces. Finally, £189 million funded the Defence Academy which provides post-graduate education and the majority of command, staff, leadership, management and specialist acquisition and technology training for members of the armed forces and MOD civil servants.

Most armed forces and civil service training is provided in-house but some £210 million is provided through external providers.

Guided Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been spent on the Team Complex Weapons programme; [12289]

(2) how much money each Team Complex Weapons contractor has received under the Team Complex Weapons programme to date. [12290]

Peter Luff: The total public expenditure on the Team Complex Weapons programme from the start of the assessment phase in July 2008 to the end of June 2010 is some £240 million. The two Team Complex Weapons prime contractors associated with this work, MBDA UK Ltd and Thales UK, have received some £218 million and some £12 million respectively over the same period. The remaining £10 million has provided technical and project support to the Ministry of Defence, including through the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and QinetiQ, as well as securing supporting equipment, facilities and information that the Ministry of Defence provides in support of the initiative and its range of projects.

HMS Queen Elizabeth

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether HMS Queen Elizabeth will carry Harrier aircraft until the Joint Strike Fighter enters service with the Royal Navy. [12550]

Peter Luff: On current plans, Harrier GR9 aircraft will operate from the Queen Elizabeth class carriers prior to the Joint Strike Fighter entering service with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

In the context of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Secretary of State for Defence has set work in hand to review all major equipment programmes to ensure the future programme is coherent with future defence needs, and this work is ongoing.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers will be equipped with an aircraft catapult system. [12862]

Peter Luff: The Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers are being built to an innovative adaptable design. Their initial configuration is for the operation of the Harrier GR9 and the Short Take Off and Vertical Landing version of the Joint Strike Fighter, but they could, if required, be adapted to operate catapult-launched aircraft in the future.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review will define the future shape and role of the armed forces and the equipment that they will need.

HMS Sussex

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of progress in the salvage of HMS Sussex by Odyssey Marine Exploration. [12922]

Nick Harvey: Work to excavate the site of the shipwreck that is believed to be that of the former Royal Navy warship HMS Sussex, which sank off the coast of Spain in 1694, has been on hold since 2007. This is due to a dispute between Odyssey Marine Exploration, the company that holds the licence to carry out the excavation work, and the Spanish Government.

HMS Triumph

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the recent refit of HMS Triumph; and when HMS Triumph will return to operational duties. [12294]

Peter Luff: The cost of the recent major refit for HMS Triumph is still to be finalised. However, the Department's estimate is approximately £255 million. HMS Triumph is now ready for operational service and the crew are currently undertaking a period of routine training prior to the next deployment.

HQ Royal Armoured Corps

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the establishment of HQ Royal Armoured Corps is; and over how many locations the Corps operates. [11766]

Nick Harvey: The liability for the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps is 5,778. The locations of the individual regiments are as follows:

Regiment	*Based in:*
Household Cavalry Regiment	Windsor
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment	London
Queens Dragoon Guards	Sennelager (Germany)
Scots Dragoon Guards	Fallingbostal (Germany)
Royal Dragoon Guards	Catterick (currently deployed in Afghanistan)
9/12 Lancers	Hohne (Germany)
Queens Royal Hussars	Sennelager (Germany)
Kings Royal Hussars	Tidworth
Light Dragoons	Swanton Morley
Queens Royal Lancers	Catterick (currently deployed in Afghanistan)
Joint Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Regiment	Honnington
1 Royal Tank Regiment Armoured Squadron	Warminster
2 Royal Tank Regiment	Tidworth

Headquarters Director of the Royal Armoured Corps Headquarters is based in Bovington, and its liability is 78 (62 military personnel and 16 civil servants).

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated in-service date with the Royal Navy is of the Joint Strike Fighter. [12549]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Joint Strike Fighter F-35B short take-off and landing variant to enter service with the Royal Navy. [12864]

Peter Luff: The in-service date for the Joint Combat Aircraft for the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy will not be set until we have taken the main investment decision on the project. That decision will be taken in light of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and when the project is sufficiently mature.

Larkhill

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which armed forces units are based at Larkhill. [11767]

Nick Harvey: The units based at Larkhill are: 32 Regiment Royal Artillery, The Royal School of Artillery, 14 Regiment Royal Artillery, 1 Artillery Brigade Support Troop, Headquarters Larkhill Garrison and 12 Army Education Centre.

There are also medical and dental centres, staffed by the Army primary health care service.

Military Bases: Security

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the provision of security to his Department's sites by *(a)* the Military Provost Guard Service and *(b)* the Ministry of Defence Guard Service was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12300]

Mr Robathan: During the financial year 2009-10, the cost of the provision of security to Ministry of Defence (MOD) sites by the MOD Guard Service (MGS) was £120.688 million. The costs during the same period to provide security to MOD sites by the Military Provost Guard Service was £67.263 million.

Military Decorations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make an announcement on the conclusions of the review of *(a)* the rules governing the awarding of medals and *(b)* the institution of a national defence medal. [12599]

Mr Robathan: The Coalition provided an undertaking in its programme for government to review the rules governing the award of medals. However, it is too early to say what conclusions will be reached and consequently when any decisions will be made.

Ministry of Defence Police Agency

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the withdrawal of the Ministry of Defence Police Agency from RAF Welford. [11867]

Mr Robathan: On current plans, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) police will be withdrawn from RAF Welford by the end of September. The Ministry of Defence police officers will be replaced by staff from the MOD Guard Service who have been recruited and are in place. In addition several security enhancements have been made to the base.

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future number of officers in the Ministry of Defence Police Agency at each base. [11869]

Mr Robathan: The future number of Ministry of Defence police officers will be determined by the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and by other ongoing work that will determine the future Defence requirement for the policing services and capabilities that are provided by the Ministry of Defence police.

Nuclear Reactors

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department's contract to build a nuclear reactor core was cancelled. [12923]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has not cancelled any contracts relating to the building of nuclear reactor cores.

Nuclear Submarines

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from what budget the capital cost of replacing the Vanguard nuclear weapons-capable submarines will be met. [12094]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 620W, to the hon. Member for Arfon (Hywel Williams).

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of patrolling the Counter-Terrorist Unit at RAF Menwith Hill in each year since 2001. [11873]

Nick Harvey: External policing at RAF Menwith Hill is provided by North Yorkshire Police and the Ministry of Defence Police. It is common practice that police forces do not release the costs and numbers of officers as this might compromise future operations.

St Helena: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residents from the Island of Saint Helena are serving in each of the armed services. [12534]

Mr Gerald Howarth: As at 1 June 2010, according to the nationality field of the joint personnel administration system, there are approximately 20 service personnel from St Helena and these are all in the Army.

However, former residents of St Helena who are members of the armed forces are British citizens and may choose to record their nationality as British on their service record. To determine how many former residents of St Helena are currently serving would require the manual search of all recruiting records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimates he has received from Deloitte on the cost of the Future Submarine Programme. [12924]

Peter Luff: No cost estimates have been received from Deloitte on the Future Submarine Programme as this work is being undertaken by the Ministry of Defence. During the programme's concept phase, Deloitte has provided the Department with independent and impartial strategic business advice and undertaken an independent programme, commercial and financial assurance function.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs were of the ballistic missile submarine fleet in the latest period for which figures are available, expressed in cash terms. [11234]

Dr Fox: Annual figures for the maintenance, refitting and operation of the Vanguard class submarines for the present comprehensive spending review (CSR) period are shown in the following table. It is not possible to provide costs for financial year 2010-11, the last year in the present CSR period.

	Total (£ million)
2008-09	150
2009-10	170

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Maintenance and refit costs include: specialist subcontractor support for propulsion systems, masts and sensors, and weapons systems; estimated HM Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde labour costs (estimated because these costs are collected for HMNB Clyde as a whole, and are not attributed to specific classes of ships or submarines); and delivering the ongoing Vanguard Class Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) (LOP (R)) programme, the costs of LOP(R) planning, and the procurement of long lead materials.

Nuclear propulsion costs are not included as they are not held in the format requested.

The operating costs cover those directly identifiable costs incurred in the day to day operation of the submarines. These include manpower, stock (such as tools and hardware) and other costs such as travel and subsistence, and accommodation stores.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12988]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence reimbursed service personnel £1.1 million in taxi fares during 2009-10. Expenditure in earlier years, and on taxi fares claimed by civilian staff, is not recorded separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Our staff may only use a taxi for official duty when there is a business benefit to the MOD or when it saves money. A taxi is typically used where no other suitable form of public transport is available. In the present economic conditions, we have also been constraining the amount of travel undertaken.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the value of facilities provided by his Department and its predecessors for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11682]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The MOD does not make payments to any trade unions (TUs). The MOD-recognised TUs are funded through the subscription fees of their members.

The MOD views it to be in the joint interest of the Department and its recognised trade unions and staff associations for reasonable administrative facilities to be provided and the Department complies with the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) Code of Practice 'Time off for trade union duties and activities.' Representatives for each recognised trade union and staff association are provided with equipped office space in an appropriate location, including facilities to work in accordance with that provided for other staff in the buildings on site, for example, desk, phone, IT, fax, etc.

Regarding the estimate of the annual value of such provision—the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11683]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The MOD uses a standard figure of 220 days to calculate the time off for trade union duties and activities (facility time). This figure represents the working year after the deduction of annual leave, public, privilege and bank holidays, for full-time employees. The amount of time off, and the purposes for which it is allowed, is determined by what is considered reasonable and the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) Code of Practice "Time off for Trade Union duties and activities". The facility time allowances are agreed annually and are reflected as a percentage of the employee's working year.

The following table sets out the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) civil servants allocated facility time each year since 1997. Based on an average working day of seven hours, a broad estimate has been calculated to address the amount of paid manpower hours spent on facility time. It has not been possible to extract those employees with facility time working part-time.

Year[1]	*FTEs*	*Hours*
2009-10[2]	135	207,900
2008-09[3]	186	286,440
2007-08[4]	—	—
2006-07[5]	200	308,000
2005-06[6]	192	295,680
2004-05	197	303,380
2003-04	196	301,840
2002-03	209	321,860
2001-02	209	321,860
2000-01	198	304,920
1999-2000	206	317,240
1998-99	189	291,060
1997-98	189	291,060

[1] The method of capturing the information changed from a formal manual system (pre 2006) to a system drawn from the Department's management information system (since 2006). The reliability of these data has varied and therefore the following footnotes should be taken into consideration:

[2] 2009-10—IT records have been data cleansed to remove known discrepancies. Data exclude facility time for employees in Trading Funds, Service Personnel Vetting Agency and Defence Police Federation.

[3] 2008-09—The IT records had improved but were known to include some discrepancies (i.e. duplicate records). Data exclude facility time for employees in Trading Funds, Service Personnel Vetting Agency and Defence Police Federation.

[4] 2007-08—The IT data were insufficient data to produce reliable records.

[5] 2006-07—There were IT system issues so 2005-06 data were manually updated by local HR business partners.

[6] 2005-06—The last year of manual records compiled by local HR business partners.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11684]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) uses a standard figure of 220 days to calculate the time off for trade union duties and activities (facility time). This figure represents the working year after the deduction of annual leave, public, privilege and bank holidays, for full time employees. The amount of time off, and the purposes for which it is allowed, is determined by what is considered reasonable and the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) code of practice 'Time off for Trade Union duties and activities'. MOD facility time allowances are agreed annually and are reflected as a percentage of the employee's working year.

The facility time is allocated as follows:

Percentage	*Days*
1-10	2-22
11-49	23-109
50-99	110-219
100	220

The following table sets out the number of civil servants allocated facility time while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997:

Year[1]	*1-10%*	*11-49%*	*50-99%*	*100%*	*Total*
2009-10[2]	182	169	15	65	431
2008-09[3]	176	168	15	116	475
2007-08[4]	—	—	—	—	—
2006-07[5]	720	228	33	71	1,052
2005-06[6]	694	222	35	66	1,017
2004-05	868	226	34	68	1,196
2003-04	918	214	34	65	1,230
2002-03	981	225	37	63	1306
2001-02	988	242	45	54	1,329
2000-01	1,060	195	38	57	1350
1999-2000	1,184	179	43	58	1,465
1998-99	1,279	171	29	54	1,533
1997-98	1,200	177	24	58	1,459

[1] The method of capturing the information changed from a formal manual system (pre 2006) to a system drawn from the department's management information system (since 2006). The reliability of these data has varied and therefore the following footnotes should be taken in to consideration:

[2] 2009-10: IT records have been data cleansed to remove known discrepancies. Data exclude facility time for employees in Trading Funds, Service Personnel Vetting Agency and Defence Police Federation.

[3] 2008-09: The IT records had improved but were known to include some discrepancies (i.e. duplicate records). Data exclude facility time for employees in Trading Funds, Service Personnel Vetting Agency and Defence Police Federation.

[4] 2007-08: The IT data were insufficient to produce reliable records.

[5] 2006-07: There were IT system issues so 2005-06 data manually updated by local HR Business Partners.

[6] 2005-06: The last year of manual records compiled by local HR Business Partners.

Trident

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what costs to the public purse he expects be incurred in respect of work on a replacement for the Trident nuclear weapons system in this Parliament, including costs associated with *(a)* the submarine replacement programme concept phase, *(b)* the post-initial gate assessment phase, *(c)* expenditure on new facilities at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment and *(d)* expenditure on (i) the development of a replacement warhead and (ii) the refurbishment of the existing warhead. [12625]

Dr Fox: The spend on the Concept Phase for the replacement submarine and associated propulsion system since the beginning of April 2007 to the end of June 2010 is some £570 million. The total spend for the

Concept Phase cannot be calculated until the end of this phase is reached and the Initial Gate Business Case has been considered.

The cost of the Assessment Phase will be influenced by the decisions taken at Initial Gate due later this year and will take full account of the ongoing Value-For-Money Review.

Replacement facilities at Atomic Weapons Establishment sites are necessary to support the in-service warhead although they would also be able to support a refurbished or replacement warhead should that be required. Against Current estimates it is planned that the facilities will cost some £490 million in financial year 2010-11. Expenditure in future years is subject to the ongoing comprehensive spending review negotiations.

No decision has been taken on whether to refurbish or replace the existing warhead. Expenditure amounting to some £12 million per annum is presently being incurred on studies required to inform such a decision.

Trident Missiles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he expects his Department to spend on the D-5 missile life extension programme in each of the next 10 years. [12928]

Dr Fox: Forecast expenditure by the Ministry of Defence on the D5 missile life extension programme for 2010-11 is currently £5.5 million.

Spending plans for 2011-12 and beyond have not yet been agreed and will be set as part of the Government's spending review process. Therefore, I am withholding details of the proposed spending beyond 2010-11 as to release this information would be likely to impact upon the formulation of Government policy.

USA: Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what costs have been incurred in respect of the US Missile Defence system in each year since 1997. [11875]

Dr Fox: The UK provides support to the US Missile Defence system by sharing radar early warning information from RAF Fylingdales and by allowing the US to use RAF Menwith Hill to receive satellite early warning information; the UK does not incur any additional costs in respect of these activities. Any question regarding the overall cost of the US Ballistic Missile Defence system would be for the US Administration to answer.

Volcanic Ash Disruption: Evacuation

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what dates *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ocean arrived at ports in northern France to assist in the evacuation of British citizens following the disruption to flights caused by volcanic ash in April 2010; [12633]

(2) how many British citizens were evacuated by *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ocean from ports in northern France in (i) April and (ii) May 2010. [12644]

Nick Harvey: At various times during the flight disruption, RFA Fort Victoria, HMS Ark Royal and HMS Ocean were placed on standby to assist with the recovery of British citizens from northern France. This was at the request of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They were to be used if civilian ferry capacity at French ports proved insufficient. HMS Illustrious was not involved in the effort. Civilian capacity proved adequate and no Royal Navy ships were needed, they did not enter ports in northern France and no British citizens were evacuated.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12825]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold financial information in a form that allows us to identify expenditure on wine separately from other expenditure on official entertainment and therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Strict rules apply to the purchase of wine under departmental rules on official entertainment and currently no new official entertainment can be arranged without the prior approval of nominated senior civil servants.

Expenditure on official entertainment is reported annually under administration and programme costs in the MOD's accounts. These can be found on the MOD website at the following address:

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports

TRANSPORT

A3: Hampshire

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to mitigate the projected increase in traffic on the A3 *(a)* between Liphook and Petersfield and *(b)* at the Ham Barn roundabout near Liss following the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel. [12858]

Mike Penning: The projected increase in traffic using the A3 following the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel is relatively small (estimated to be less than 10%) and largely due to drivers returning to the A3 from other routes. As a result there are no plans to mitigate the projected increase between Liphook and Petersfield.

However, the Highways Agency is investigating potential alterations to the A3 Ham Barn Roundabout which are subject to further stakeholder liaison with Hampshire county council and East Hampshire district council. Any improvement will be subject to the availability of funding.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the replacement of the Ham Barn roundabout by a flyover to carry the A3. [12859]

Mike Penning: No representations to replace the roundabout by a flyover on the A3 have been received.

Bus Services: Concessions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have taken up the local entitlement for free bus travel since that entitlement was introduced. [12113]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

The last information held by the Department was that as of 6 April this year, approximately 10 million smartcard concessionary passes had been issued since the introduction of the England-wide concession in April 2008. This includes passes issued to both eligible older and disabled people.

The Department holds no data about passes issued prior to this date.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12340]

Norman Baker: The requested information has been placed in the Library of the House. Sales proceeds were retained by the Agency disposing of the land or building.

The Information requested at (ii) (A) is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [13064]

Norman Baker: This information is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Operating Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure elements comprise the administrative budget for the commissioning and purchasing sections within his Department. [12069]

Mr Philip Hammond: Advice about administration budgets is set out in chapter 4 of the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance for 2010-11 which can be found on the HM Treasury website; the link is:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consolidated_budgeting_guidance201011.pdf

The administration budget for the Department for Transport includes the relevant costs (as defined in section 4.8 of the guidance) of the core Department, the Highways Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the powers of his Department's agencies to set pay rates for their staff; and if he will make a statement. [12068]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues, including the Chancellor, on a wide range of issues. In line with the Ministerial Code, it would be inappropriate to comment on the content of these discussions.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12441]

Norman Baker: A breakdown of pension contribution costs for each of the last three years, together with planned expenditure for 2010-11, by country and region, is not available and would incur a disproportionate cost to produce.

The total pension costs incurred by the Department for Transport, each non-departmental public body and each Executive Agency can be obtained by review of each entity's statutory accounts.

Departmental Public Expenditure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has undertaken equality impact assessments of the proposed reductions in its expenditure which it has submitted to the Treasury as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [12067]

Mr Philip Hammond: In line with the Government's commitment to fairness and to conducting the Spending Review in a way that protects the poorest and most vulnerable in our society, my Department is currently undertaking a robust analysis of its proposals for the Spending Review and will look closely at the effects of its spending proposals on all protected groups.

This work includes considering the equalities impacts of particular proposals, where we consider this is helpful as part of fulfilling the Government's commitment to promoting equality for all legally protected groups.

Where the Department has completed full equality impact assessments for prospective budget reductions which are subsequently proceeded with, the results will be made available following the Spending Review.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years in each (i) nation and (ii) region of the UK. [12444]

Norman Baker: The information requested is not available centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Eyesight

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will consult representatives of *(a)* transport organisations and *(b)* optical professions on the implementation of the vision standards for driving contained in the European Directive on Driving Licences; and if he will make a statement. [12426]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport will issue a public consultation before introducing any changes to UK medical licensing standards as a result of Commission Directive 2009/113/EEC which makes amendments to the minimum health standards for vision, diabetes and epilepsy. Organisations representing the transport industry and eye care professionals will be invited to comment.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and experts from the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel have been considering how the EU Directive should be applied in the UK. A public consultation is planned but no date has been confirmed for its issue.

The medical licensing rules currently in place contribute to the UK having the safest roads in Europe. Any decisions about changing the standards cannot be taken lightly. The complications of any changes have to be considered before a consultation can be launched.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers have notified the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency that their vision no longer meets the legal eyesight requirements to drive in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [12430]

Mike Penning: The information requested is not held. Information is only available on the number of applications refused and licences revoked on eyesight grounds after the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has conducted medical checks. The figures include both visual acuity and visual field cases. Between 2005 and 2009, 6,326 driving licence applications/driving licences have been refused or revoked due to visual field defects and 2,788 due to reduced visual acuity.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that drivers are informed of their responsibility to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency if their vision no longer meets the legal eyesight requirements for driving; and if he will make a statement. [12431]

Mike Penning: Driving licence application forms and associated leaflets remind drivers about their ongoing obligation to meet health standards. Specific mention is made about the requirement to be able to see clearly and to be able to read a number plate. Information is also available on DirectGov where regular reminders appear.

The current requirement is that drivers must be able to read a standard car number plate (with glasses or corrective lenses if necessary) from 67 feet.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the number plate test in assessing a person's visual fitness to drive; and if he will make a statement. [12432]

Mike Penning: Over the past year, the Department for Transport has reviewed the vision standards for drivers, including the effectiveness of the number plate test. This review has been undertaken in conjunction with the experts on the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Vision and Driving. The review concluded that the test remains an effective, straightforward means of testing visual acuity.

The number plate test is not just a test of acuity but also of ability to scan information accurately at a distance. The simplicity of the test enables drivers to check that their eyesight continues to meet the required standard throughout their driving career. It also allows the police to make a straightforward check if they are concerned that an individual is driving with defective eyesight.

Freight: Finance

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department plans to provide in *(a)* rail and *(b)* water freight operating grants in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [12147]

Mike Penning: In 2010-11 it is expected that approximately £20 million will be provided to industry to support the operating costs of both rail and water freight services. At present approximately £19.5 million is allocated to rail services and £0.5 million to water freight services.

The budget for rail and water operating grants in 2011-12 is £20 million. To date £14.5 million has been allocated to rail services and £0.3 million to water freight services.

Heathrow Airport: Night Flying

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on restrictions on night flights at Heathrow Airport after October 2012. [11984]

Mrs Villiers: There have been restrictions on night flights at Heathrow for many years. The Government recognise the importance of the protections afforded by these restrictions for communities affected by aircraft noise. The restrictions are subject to periodic review. The current regime which was introduced in June 2006, will expire in October 2012. An announcement on the proposals for post 2012 will be made in due course.

Integrated Transport Authorities

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the creation of new integrated transport authorities; and if he will make a statement. [12215]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is happy to consider any proposals for new integrated transport authorities put forward by local authorities.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the work of the agency; and if he will make a statement. [12150]

Mike Penning: I have regular meetings with the chief executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to discuss the work of the agency.

Mersey Gateway Project

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Mersey Gateway project will be considered as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [12517]

Norman Baker: The Mersey Gateway project is being considered as part of the comprehensive spending review. As with other such schemes, the Government can give no assurances that it can fund this scheme until the outcome of the spending review is known.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the introduction of a redesigned Registration Certificate V5C for vehicles in the United Kingdom. [12149]

Mike Penning: The cost of the design work, production tests, IT system changes and enhanced security features was £45,700. The value of paper and information leaflet stocks that can no longer be used is £62,200.

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 7-8WS, on the motorcycle test, what representations he has received in his review of motorcycle tests. [12114]

Mike Penning: We have received some 475 representations on the review of the motorcycle test. The closing date for representations was 31 July and we are considering the responses. We intend to go out to public consultation on our proposals and will publish a summary of representations received in due course.

We have received a range of representations. The main issues raised include the location and accessibility of test centres; calls for the current two module practical test to be combined into a single event test; and concerns about the way in which certain manoeuvres have been implemented, including the linking of the avoidance and controlled stop manoeuvres.

Railways

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide guidance to train operating companies on the number of automated announcements which should be made per hour on trains. [12109]

Mrs Villiers: Guidance is given to train operators on public address announcements relating, for example, to disabled access and security. It is a matter for individual train operators to consider how these are implemented on their services.

Other franchise specific requirements are made where appropriate. For example, the Stagecoach South West franchise required the operator to make announcements on two specified routes where there is a risk of delay due to passengers boarding/alighting for passengers to move down inside the train.

Railways: Construction

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost benefit analysis model is being used to determine which route a future high speed rail network will take. [12219]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd has produced a high level assessment of the comparative business cases of the 'reverse S' and "Y' shaped network options. In producing this assessment the company adopted the same methodology as in its work on national network configurations included in its December 2009 report. I will announce my decision on network configurations in due course.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on the timescale for re-letting contracts for rail maintenance work which had previously been let to Jarvis; [12752]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on transferring those formerly employed by Jarvis rail maintenance work to new contractors. [12757]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers and officials communicate regularly with Network Rail. Contractual negotiations over the reallocation of track renewal work previously carried out by Jarvis plc are matters between Network Rail and the companies involved.

I understand that Network Rail has now re-let the track renewals work that was undertaken by Jarvis on the London North Eastern and Midland and Continental routes, which has led to a number of staff receiving offers of employment from Babcock Rail.

Network Rail has said that all current track renewal work is now allocated and that there are no outstanding contracts to be filled.

Regional Airports

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights *(a)* landed at and *(b)* departed from each UK airport in each of the last five years. [12643]

Mrs Villiers: A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing the number of flights that landed at and departed from UK airports in each year from 2005 to 2009. These figures are based on data provided to the Department by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on the South East Airports Task Force, what recent assessment has been made of the capacity for expansion of regional airports; [12650]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the development of regional airports outside the South East; and if he will make a statement. [12753]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not made any recent assessment of the capacity for expansion of regional airports. The Government recognise the important benefits that airports contribute to regional economies. Proposals for expanding regional airports should be judged on their individual merits, taking into account relevant environmental considerations.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in the level of air traffic at regional airports by *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2030, *(c)* 2040 and *(d)* 2050. [12747]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport published air passenger demand forecasts most recently in the document UK "Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", in January 2009. This included traffic forecasts for 26 regional airports between 2005 and 2050.

The following table shows the forecasts for total passengers and flights departing from regional airports in 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050.

	Passengers (million)	*Air transport movements (thousand)*
2020	150.5	1,743
2030	196.6	2,230
2040	239.9	2,621
2050	271.3	2,871

These forecasts refer to the demand scenario 'PBR Nov 08 GDP' (using GDP forecasts from the 2008 pre-Budget report) and capacity scenario 's02' making maximum use of existing airport infrastructure.

Further details of these scenarios and the regional airports modelled can be found in annex F of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", January 2009. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

The Department keeps its forecasts under review and will publish updated forecasts as appropriate.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of passengers who used each UK airport in each of the last five years. [12913]

Mrs Villiers: The number of terminal passengers at UK airports is published by the Civil Aviation Authority in table 10.3 of their UK Airports Statistics series. The latest version of this table, which covers 1999 to 2009, is available on their website at the following address:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/80/airport_data/2009Annual/Table_10_3_Terminal_Pax_1999_2009.pdf

Roads: Construction

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* national and *(b)* regional new road schemes (i) in the East of England and (ii) nationally at an estimated cost of more than £10 million are being considered by his Department; and what assessment he has made of the cost-benefit ratio of each such scheme; [11964]

(2) what *(a)* national and *(b)* regional road improvement schemes (i) in the East of England and (ii) nationally at a projected cost of more than £10 million his Department is considering. [11965]

Mike Penning: All the national and regional new road schemes and road improvement schemes with an estimated cost greater than £10 million that are still in development are being considered as part of the Government's spending review.

The cost:benefit ratio is one of the criteria for assessing schemes as part of the spending review.

Roads: Lighting

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the Highways Agency switches off lights on motorways after midnight; what assessment of the likely effects on road safety of that practice was made before it was adopted; and what responsibility the Highways Agency has in respect of light pollution. [12570]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency currently switches off lights between midnight and 5 am in order to:

reduce the financial burden on the taxpayer of operating the motorway network and reduce the agency's carbon footprint;

reduce roadworks associated with lighting maintenance and thereby reduce roadworker exposure to high speed traffic and inconvenience to road users.

All sites where switch off at midnight takes place were subject to a detailed safety assessment. By selecting sites with a good safety record and where night-time traffic flows are low, the Highways Agency is confident there will be no adverse impact on road safety.

The Highways Agency is required to operate the strategic road network safely and in both a financial and an environmentally responsible way. Light pollution can impact on people living near roads and on the ecology within and adjacent to Highways Agency's land.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will direct *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Highways Agency to ensure that highway lighting is switched on during the hours of darkness; and if he will make a statement. [12569]

Mike Penning: It is the responsibility of the relevant local highway authority to determine whether or not highway lighting should be switched on during the hours of darkness.

The Highways Agency is responsible for maintaining and operating the motorway and trunk road network, including installing lighting. The Highways Agency is currently switching off lights at selected sites between midnight and 5 am, following a detailed impact assessment. These sites are continuously monitored to make sure safety is not adversely affected.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will issue guidance to the Highways Agency on ensuring that road safety objectives are prioritised over steps to reduce light pollution. [12571]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency follows standards based on evidence on the link between road lighting and road safety. Measures are being taken to reduce carbon emissions across the Highways Agency's operations and this includes switching off road lighting on carefully selected sections of motorways between midnight and 5am. These sites are being monitored to ensure that safety is not adversely affected.

Roads: Litter

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Justice the use of the Community Payback Scheme to collect litter from the verges of motorways and trunk roads in England. [12956]

Mike Penning: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice and I have discussed the use of the Community Payback Scheme to collect litter from the verges of motorways and trunk roads in England.

The Highways Agency will take part in wider discussions with the Ministry of Justice on the type of work that can be undertaken by offenders on Community Payback, including litter clearance on highways.

Sea Rescue: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the use of volunteer coastguards since 12 May 2010. [12148]

Mike Penning: Like all parts of Government, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has been asked to look carefully at its spending, including on the use of its 3,500 volunteers whose work we value highly.

The MCA will continue to focus resources on responding to emergencies and volunteer Coastguard Rescue Officers will be used for their specialist skills of search, mud and cliff rescue whenever needed. The MCA will also take appropriate opportunities to spread safety messages, for example at local events or through school visits.

Severn River Crossing: Tolls

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when credit and debit cards will be accepted as a means of payment on the Severn Bridges. [12212]

Norman Baker: Discussions between the Highways Agency and the Concessionaire, Severn River Crossings Plc, to resolve the financial issues regarding the introduction of card payments are ongoing. The work to amend the tolling software to allow for the processing of credit and debit card payments has started and I have asked the Highways Agency to aim to have this in place in time for the Ryder Cup.

Shipping: Inspections

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many mandatory expanded inspections the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has carried out on ships labelled high risk in the last 12 months. [12135]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency carried out 55 mandatory expanded inspections on high risk ships in the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

Mandatory expanded inspections are only carried out on high risk ships that have not been inspected under the same arrangements in the last 12 months.

Transport: Dorset

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will visit Dorset for the purpose of assessing the level of transport provision in that area. [12110]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State has no plans to visit Dorset in the near future.

It is for Dorset county council, as the local highway authority, to assess and provide transport provision for their area.

Tyres: Safety

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the safety of remoulded tyres in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [12892]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not commissioned or evaluated any specific research on the safety of remoulded (retreaded) tyres in the last three years.

However, commercial vehicle retreaded tyres were tested against international standards between 2007 and 2010 as part of a market surveillance programme. Of the 52 tyres tested, seven failed to meet the full performance requirements of the tests. Follow-up action is under way with the European authorities who were responsible for approving the tyres in accordance with EU procedure.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data his Department hold on the incidence of *(a)* new and *(b)* second-hand tyre failure as a factor in road traffic accidents. [12893]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not hold any data on the level of new or second-hand tyre failure as a factor in road traffic accidents. When a police officer attends the scene of a personal injury road accident they can report 'tyres illegal, defective or under inflated' as a contributory factor to the accident. This was reported as a contributory factor in 860 accidents in 2009 (1% of all reported road accidents).

Contributory factors reflect the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting, and where a factor may have contributed to the cause of an accident it may be difficult for a police officer attending the scene after the accident to identify this, so factors may be underreported. Not all reported road accidents are included in contributory factor analysis, only those where a police officer attended the scene and at least one contributory factor was reported.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Finance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the forthcoming Vehicle and Operator Services Agency nine-week campaign of spot checks of vehicle loads. [9114]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency does not have any plans to conduct a nine-week campaign of spot checks of vehicle loads.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its predecessors spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12824]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport (DFT) holds no stocks of wine. Generally, the Department operates a no alcohol policy.

The Driving Standards Agency's current policy is not to provide alcohol at any events, although alcohol has been provided exceptionally in the past at some external events. The Highways Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency do not purchase alcoholic drinks for any purpose. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Vehicle Certification Agency have not spent any money on alcohol.

In the central Department, some limited provision of alcoholic drinks at public expense may be permitted in exceptional cases at the discretion of a senior civil servant; however these data are generally not recorded separately as they are of such low value. Since 12 May, any alcohol purchased for use within the central Department has been paid for by DFT staff, or Ministers.

TREASURY

Arm's Length Management Organisations: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 59-60WS, on Departmental arm's-length bodies, what the Barnett consequentials for Wales will be. [12632]

Danny Alexander: Any changes to arm's-length bodies will be taken into account in the spending review. The devolved Administrations will receive appropriate Barnett consequentials in the usual way.

Benefits: British Nationals Abroad

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (1) persons received child benefit in respect of children resident in each country other than the UK in each year since 1997; how many children were the subject of such payments in each such year; and how much child benefit was paid in respect of such children in each such year; [11051]

(2) recipients of tax credits are eligible to receive such credits by virtue of children and dependants resident outside the UK; and how much was paid in such credits in each year since 1997. [11052]

Mr Gauke: Child benefit and child tax credit are intended to support families in the United Kingdom (UK). They are therefore generally payable only in respect of children resident in the UK although there are certain exceptions where child benefit and tax credits can be paid to nationals of European Economic Area (EEA) member states under EC Regulations for a child or young person resident in another member state.

Information about the payment of child tax credit to children resident outside the UK is only available at disproportionate cost. The information requested on child benefit awards to EEA nationals in respect of children resident in another member state is not available in the format requested. However, snapshot data which are available are presented in the following table:

Table: Child benefit statistics relating to EEA nationals with children resident in another member state

	Number of awards		*Number of children in awards*	
Country	*As at October 2009*	*As at July 2010*	*As at October 2009*	*As at July 2010*
Austria	29	29	52	45
Belgium	153	159	297	310
Bulgaria	45	79	70	113
Cyprus	51	55	82	89
Czech Republic	197	175	340	295
Denmark	13	18	24	32
Estonia	17	19	30	29
Finland	16	16	29	30
France	1,256	1,266	2,346	2,343
Germany	311	337	529	578
Greece	51	57	81	88
Hungary	96	80	172	130
Iceland	2	3	4	5
Italy	175	187	300	316
Latvia	299	295	346	404
Lithuania	747	710	1,093	1,012
Luxembourg	14	15	26	28
Malta	17	17	26	25
Norway	45	42	92	79
Poland	22,858	17,212	37,941	28,760
Portugal	222	233	329	346
Republic of Ireland	883	957	1,818	1,972
Romania	36	75	53	130
Slovakia	1,483	1,180	2,573	2,051
Slovenia	5	6	7	9
Spain	741	796	1,230	1,322
Sweden	57	65	107	130
Switzerland	104	113	216	235
The Netherlands	185	197	373	390

The value of the benefit paid is only available at disproportionate costs because under the EC social security co-ordinating regulations not all awards of child benefit in respect of children living in other member states are made at the full UK rate.

BP: Gulf of Mexico

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of seeking an exemption from tax rules to ensure that BP is not entitled to tax deductions in respect of any costs associated with the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. [12705]

Mr Gauke: The corporation tax rules already limit deductions for costs incurred on overseas operations. In general costs may only be deducted in computing UK profits where those costs relate to a business carried on by a UK tax resident company or branch. No deduction is allowed for fines, penalties and damages incurred in respect of infractions of the law. Specific rules also ensure that tax revenues from UK oil and gas production cannot be reduced by expenses incurred in other activities.

Cash Dispensing: Fees and Charges

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of cash machines which charge customers for transactions. [12865]

Mr Hoban: Statistics from the LINK network, to which all cash machines in the UK are connected, show that at the end of June 2010 there were 40,600 free-to-use cash machines and 22,448 charging cash machines in the UK. According to the same source, 97% of withdrawals in 2009 were made from free-to-use machines.

Child Benefit

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 912W, on child benefit, (1) for what reasons the information provided in the answer does not give the requested figures for the new Worsley and Eccles South constituency; [12434]

(2) what account he took in providing the answer of the guidance in paragraph 7.37 of the Cabinet Office Guide to Parliamentary Work, on referring to websites or other published material. [12435]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 936W.

Child Trust Fund

Nick Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust funds have been opened since their introduction. [12242]

Mr Hoban: Statistical information about child trust funds is published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

This shows that 5.237 million child trust fund accounts had been opened by 15 June 2010.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12354]

Justine Greening: Neither the Treasury nor any of its agencies or non-departmental bodies has sold any buildings since 2005.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [12995]

Justine Greening: Government Departments have been gathering property benchmarking data, including the amount of office space used per full-time equivalent employee, under the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) High Performing Property Initiative since 2007. These data have been published annually since 2008 by the OGC in its reports on the State of the Government Estate, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Equivalent information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9675]

Justine Greening: General guidance for briefing Ministers is provided on the HM Treasury intranet. The guidance includes briefing for meetings, submissions, speeches and correspondence. It is up to individual Ministers to commission or tailor further briefing to meet their specific needs.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6118]

Justine Greening: Spending on conferences by the Treasury since 2002-03 is shown in the following table. Information on attendance at conferences is not held centrally and information prior to 2002-03, when a new accounting system was introduced, is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

	£000
2002-03	431
2003-04	771
2004-05	494
2005-06	317
2006-07	456
2007-08	370
2008-09	524
2009-10	338

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13014]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury did not have any vacant property during this period.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12794]

Justine Greening: The Treasury does not keep a central record of chairs purchased and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure the *(a)* screening for and *(b)* immediate removal of offensive posts made on his Department's Spending Challenge website; and if he will make a statement. [9715]

Justine Greening: The Government are taking an entirely new approach to the Spending Review by consulting directly with those whose taxes pay for public services. The Spending Challenge public website is a key part of this, and has received over 19,000 ideas and 32,000 comments so far, building on the 65,000 ideas submitted by public sector workers.

The vast majority of comments are constructive and helpful and will feed into the tough decisions that must be made in the Spending Review. We want to encourage open debate but we are clear that offensive ideas and comments are not welcome, under the website's clear and strict moderation policy.

In response to a small number of malicious attacks we have taken action to disable certain interactive features on the website. These measures are designed to prevent malicious use but still allow the public to have their say on the Spending Challenge and we are continuing to encourage people to submit their ideas online. As previously, we will look at as many ideas as possible and the best ones will be considered as part of the Spending Review, which will be concluded on 20 October.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidelines his Department applies to moderation of comments made on its websites. [11901]

Justine Greening: In general, HM Treasury websites do not have the functionality to allow site visitors to make comments.

The Spending Challenge website was built and implemented as a joint exercise between No. 10, Cabinet Office, Directgov, HM Treasury and a private sector partner called Delib. HM Treasury facilitated access to the Spending Challenge website via its own departmental site.

The Spending Challenge site has a strict moderation policy, which can be found in the comment and privacy policy page of the website:

http://spendingchallenge.hm-treasury.gov.uk/privacy_policy

A dedicated team keep a close eye on the content posted and continue to remove the minority of ideas and comments that are not appropriate as soon as possible.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3639]

(2) how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3661]

Justine Greening: The Efficiency and Reform Group within the Cabinet Office is leading on the review and renegotiation of Government contracts across all Government Departments. The review will identify priority contracts for renegotiation. The Treasury will focus its resources on reviewing the contracts with its top 10 suppliers, representing approximately 60% of total procurement expenditure. Work supporting this initiative has been, and will continue to be undertaken by the Treasury's own officials. At this stage it cannot be determined how many Treasury officials will be working on renegotiating contracts nor what cost savings are expected. At this stage it is not possible to determine when contract renegotiations will be complete.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £451 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6829]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor's Department's share of the savings announced on 26 May 2010 will be split between HM Revenue and Customs comprising £320 million in annually managed expenditure and £125 million in departmental expenditure limits (DEL), and HM Treasury, where £6 million savings will be found from within DEL.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12355]

Justine Greening: Details of the amounts paid by the Treasury in rent for properties is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Region*	*£000*
2005-06	East Anglia	819
2006-07	East Anglia	819
2007-08	East Anglia	819
2008-09	East Anglia	963
2009-10	East Anglia	481

No other amount was spent by the Treasury in rent for properties in other regions or nations of the United Kingdom.

Education: Finance

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy that the Consumer Financial Education Body should fund training in financial capability for school-aged children and young people; and if he will make a statement. [12078]

Mr Hoban: The Consumer Financial Education Body (CFEB) is an independent body and, while the CFEB must consult the Treasury when preparing its budget and annual plan, HM Treasury has no power to direct the CFEB to fund any activity, including training in financial capability for school-aged children and young people. The Government welcome the CFEB's decision to fund support for financial education in schools until March 2011 through the 'Learning Money Matters' programme.

Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make funding available for the second round of the Plugged In Places scheme to support the roll-out of a charging infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [11982]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have been asked to reply.

I confirmed on 28 July that the Plugged-In Places initiative is ongoing and final funding will be decided in the spending review.

European Investment Bank

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of the UK's current liabilities to the European Investment Bank. [11209]

Justine Greening: As of 22 July 2010, the outstanding amount of disbursed loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to UK public sector entities is £1,725 million. In addition, loans from the EIB to UK public sector entities amounting to £850 million have been signed but not yet disbursed.

The UK is also a shareholder in the EIB. It has subscribed to 16.17% of the Bank's capital, representing €37,578 million. Of this amount, €1,879 million is paid-up capital. The remainder, €35,699 million, is callable capital.

Financial Services: Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide financial incentives to businesses in the financial services sector to enable their staff to volunteer in schools to support the provision of financial literacy teaching; and if he will make a statement. [12079]

Mr Hoban: The Government welcome the important contribution made by volunteers from financial services firms in supporting financial capability teaching in schools and helping to raise levels of financial capability among young people. A wide range of financial services firms already encourage and support their staff to volunteer in schools, recognising that promoting financial education volunteering brings benefits for the business and for staff.

Foreign Investment in UK: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of foreign direct investment from Israel *(a)* in total; *(b)* in each sector and *(c)* in each industry sector in each of the last five years. [10558]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply-to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the monetary value was of foreign direct investment from Israel *(a)* in total, *(b)* in each sector and *(c)* in each industry sector in each of the last five years. (10558)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates for UK Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) based on survey data collected by the ONS and Bank of England. Headline figures from the annual surveys are published in a Statistical Bulletin, "Foreign Direct Investment", which is available from the UK National Statistics website. The latest figures available at the level of counterpart country are for the year 2008.

Data on the inward investment flows and positions (levels) from Israel to the UK for 2004 to 2008 are provided in the attached table. Further breakdowns by sector and industry are not available because this could be commercially disclosive.

Net foreign direct investment in the UK by Israel: United Kingdom, 2004 - 08

£ million

	Investment flows	*Investment position*[1] *(level)*
2004	0	233
2005	442	724
2006	40	771
2007	30	855
2008	101	765

[1] Position at the end of each tear

Source:

Annual Inward Foreign Direct Investment surveys

Green Investment Bank

James Wharton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what process will be used to decide on the location of the proposed Green Investment Bank; and if he will make a statement. [11537]

Justine Greening: The Government are considering a wide range of options for the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank and will put forward detailed proposals following the spending review.

Office for Budget Responsibility: Public Appointments

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his Department's correspondence with Sir Alan Budd on his appointment as Head of the Office of Budget Responsibility. [7850]

Justine Greening: All correspondence between the Treasury and Sir Alan Budd on his appointment as Chair of the interim Office for Budget Responsibility has been published and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/foi_obr_posts.htm

Office for Tax Simplification

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 175-6, on the Office of Tax Simplification, to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill, (1) how many full-time equivalent civil servants of each grade work in the Office of Tax Simplification; [11836]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely total salary bill for the Office of Tax Simplification in the next year; [11837]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely number of secondees from the private sector to be employed by the Office of Tax Simplification in the next 12 months. [11838]

Mr Gauke: Michael Jack and John Whiting, who are leading the Office for the first year, will not be paid. They will be supported by a small secretariat to be appointed over the summer.

The secretariat will include three full-time officials from the Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs. One of these officials will be a Grade 6 official, the other two will be Higher Executive Officers. It is estimated that the annual salary bill for the secretariat will be around £220,000, consisting of gross salary, employer National Insurance contributions and superannuation costs. These costs will be met from within existing Treasury and HMRC budgets.

It is expected that the secretariat will also include around three externally funded secondees.

Pre-Budget Reports

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the pre-Budget report process. [10794]

Justine Greening: The Government are considering the timing and nature of pre-Budget announcements on taxation. They will report on this in the autumn.

Public Expenditure

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1040-1, on public spending, what criteria his Department used to determine which projects were affordable. [11938]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 27 July 2010]*: On 17 June I announced the outcome of a review of all Government spending agreed by the previous Government between 1 January and the general election. Projects were assessed in light of spending plans for 2010-11 and the next spending period and were cancelled where they were not affordable, did not represent good value for money, or did not reflect the Government's priorities.

Public Expenditure: Houghton-le-Spring

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of each capital project in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency to which funding had been allocated which is under review. [4355]

Danny Alexander: On 17 June I announced the outcome of a review of 217 projects that had been submitted to the Treasury for re-approval. These projects included both capital and resource expenditure. Twelve projects were cancelled as they did not demonstrate value for money and a further 12 projects were suspended as more detailed work is needed as part of the spending review process. None of these projects were in the constituency of Houghton and Sunderland. A list of the projects cancelled and suspended along with their constituency can be found in the response to the hon. Member for Wigan's (Lisa Nandy) parliamentary question—7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 294W. I also laid in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament a full list of projects that were not cancelled or suspended as part of this exercise:

http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2010/DEP2010-1327.doc

Public Expenditure: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, on regional government, whether the closure of regional government offices will have a Barnett consequential for Wales. [11777]

Danny Alexander: The Government have announced an intention in principle to abolish the Government Office network. Final decisions will be made at the end of the Spending Review in the autumn. Any resultant consequentials will form part of the Spending Review 2010 settlement for the Devolved Administrations.

Public Sector: Manpower

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellorof the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the changes in the number of public sector jobs in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wales arising from the measures proposed in the June 2010 Budget. [9593]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility released further information on its employment forecast on 30 June 2010, which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Public Sector: Redundancies

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of *(a)* the North West and *(b)* the South East of a reduction in the number of public sector jobs attributable to reductions in public expenditure. [12020]

Danny Alexander: Future public spending allocations will be decided in the forthcoming spending review.

Rents: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of the 50th percentile rent for properties with *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five bedrooms in East Lothian constituency in 2010-11. [7181]

Mr Gauke: This is a matter for the devolved Administration.

Revenue and Customs

Mr Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the members were of the Inland Revenue Advisory Group established in May 1995 to examine the work, staffing and organisation of the tax districts responsible for that Department's largest and most complex cases; how many reports the Group produced; on what dates; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such report. [11032]

Mr Gauke: The members of the Advisory Group which examined the work of the of the Inland Revenue tax districts responsible for the Department's largest and most complex cases were:

Member	
Steve Matheson	Deputy Chairman
Keith Deacon	Director, Quality Development Division
Michael Johns	Director, Business Operations Division
Jonathan Leigh-Pemberton	Business Operations Division
John Gribbon	Director, Business Profits Division
Dick Jones	Controller, Large Groups Office
Tom Cawdron	Deputy Controller, Large Groups Office
Tony Sleeman	Controller, South Yorkshire REO
Graeme Fisher	District Inspector, Liverpool Blackfriars
Dariel Francis	District Inspector, City 25
Iain Mcniven	District Inspector, Leeds 2 TDO
Ron Haigh	Assistant Director, International Division
Kevin Hamer	International Division
David Carr	Pollard Review
Jeremy Grinyer	Board Support

The group produced a draft report in September 1995, which was made final in November 1995. A copy of the report has been placed in the House of Commons Library. A few passages have been redacted to remove references to particular taxpayers, in accordance with HM Revenue & Customs' statutory duty of confidentiality.

A smaller Advisory Group was appointed to be the project board for implementing the changes that flowed from the report. Its members were:

Steve Matheson (Chair)
Tom Cawdron (until December 1995)
Bernard Staples
Hazel Colclough (from December 1995)
Tony Johnson
Robert Peel

No copies of this group's further recommendations have been retained.

Mr Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Bristol Large Business Office (BLBO) of the Inland Revenue was created; on what date the offices of tax districts which came to comprise it were co-located; and on what date the BLBO joined the National Large Business Office. [11033]

Mr Gauke: The Bristol Large Business Office was formed around June 1996. It was formed from four tax districts which had been co-located in Bristol since 1987, when three were moved from the West End of London.

Bristol Large Business Office joined the National Large Business Office on 1 August 1997.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mr Barron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the figures published by HM Revenue and Customs on revenue earned from tobacco duty include value added tax. [11603]

Justine Greening: The figures published by HM Revenue and Customs on revenue earned from tobacco duty do not include value added tax receipts. They refer to the specific and ad valorem tobacco duties only.

Mr Barron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what methodology his Department uses to estimate lost excise duty revenue on smuggled tobacco products; [11604]

(2) what methodology his Department uses to estimate lost excise duty revenue on illicit tobacco products. [11605]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs' methodology used to estimate lost excise duty revenue for smuggled and illicit tobacco products was published in 'Measuring Tax Gaps—2009' in November 2009 which is available in the House of Commons Library and at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.htm

Social Security Benefits

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Budget Red Book, page 40, Table 2.1, line 22, how many *(a)* households, *(b)* men and *(c)* women are in receipt of each of the (i) benefits, (ii) tax credits and (iii) public service pensions to be uprated in line with the consumer price index. [12648]

Mr Gauke: The tabulation tool on the DWP website provides the latest available case loads in Great Britain for all the main social security benefits administered by DWP, and also provides an analysis by gender.

The latest available statistics on tax credit and child benefit recipients and beneficiaries are available on the HMRC website. The gender split of children supported through child benefit and child tax credit can be assumed using the Office for National Statistics' published population estimates.

Statistics on the number of members of public service pension schemes are available from each scheme's published resource accounts. A detailed gender breakdown for each scheme is not readily available, and therefore the Treasury has assumed a similar breakdown to the wider public service population.

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Budget Red Book, page 40, Table 2.1, line 22, which *(a)* benefits, *(b)* tax credits and *(c)* public service pensions are to be uprated in line with the consumer price index. [12649]

Mr Gauke: This measure will cover all benefits and tax credits that were previously uprated by either the retail price index or Rossi index. This change will also apply to public service pensions through the statutory link to the indexation of the state second pension.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the net effect on the public purse of the changes to spending on social security benefits and tax credits referred to in table C14 of the June 2010 Budget Red Book was of revisions to economic forecasts made for that Budget by the Office for Budget Responsibility; [12580]

(2) what estimate he has made of the net effect on the public purse of changes to spending on social security benefits and tax credits in table C14 of the June 2010 Budget Red Book attributable to *(a)* the direct effect of policy decisions taken before the Budget and *(b)* the overall measures in the Budget; [12581]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the changes to current receipts in each year of the forecast period in table C12 of the June 2010 Budget Red Book were due to *(a)* the direct effect of policy decisions adopted before the Budget and *(b)* the overall measures in the Budget; [12582]

(4) what estimate he has made of the effect on the public purse of changes resulting from revisions to economic forecasts made by the Office for Budget Responsibility to current receipts in each year of the forecast period in table C12 of the June 2010 Budget Red Book. [12583]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility, which has been asked to reply.

Letter from Graham Parker, dated 20 August 2010:

As a member of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), I have been asked to reply to your recent questions—PQs 12580, 12581, 12582 and 12583.

Following your requests for supplementary information on its forecasts, the Office for Budget Responsibility released the information concerning changes to tax receipts, social security and tax credits forecasts between the pre-Budget forecast and the Budget on its website

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

on 19 August 2010. This is consistent with the interim OBR's release policy

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/interim_release_process.pdf

Copies of the published material have also been placed in the Library of the House.

Tax Allowances: Offenders

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of offering tax breaks to companies who employ former offenders. [12133]

Mr Gauke: The Government's emergency Budget contained measures which will give businesses the confidence to invest, whilst reducing the burden of tax and regulation. These will encourage firms to create new jobs, enabling those out of work, for whatever reason, back into the labour market.

Tax Evasion

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of tax evasion by individuals involved in serious and organised crime. [12750]

Mr Gauke: Protecting Tax Revenues 2009 provides an overview of HMRC's approach to combating criminal attacks on the tax system:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.htm

Examples of success in the last year include the disruption of a major criminal organisation behind a concerted attempt to make false Income Tax Self Assessment repayment claims and the introduction of new legislation to stop a form of VAT Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud in connection with trading of emissions allowances (often called 'carbon credits').

As result of HMRC's work, losses to organised crime have been reduced in relation to cigarettes fraud by over £1.2 billion since 2000 and spirits and diesel fraud by £150 million and £650 million since 2003-04 respectively. Attempted VAT MTIC fraud has also fallen by up to £3 billion since 2005-06.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Serious Organised Crime Agency on the prosecution of individuals involved in serious and organised crime for tax evasion. [12755]

Mr Gauke: HMRC works closely with all other UK law enforcement agencies both to tackle organised crime attacks against the Exchequer and also to help with the wider efforts to disrupt serious organised crime. The focus of this activity is the Organised Crime Partnership Board (OCPB), which meets monthly, and is made up of HMRC, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the UK Border Agency and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

HMRC also has a memorandum of understanding with SOCA setting out how they will work together and they also engage bilaterally regularly at the strategic, policy and operational levels to co-ordinate and maximise joint capabilities.

The Crown Prosecution Service is responsible for deciding whether to prosecute and for carrying out all prosecutions originating from HMRC criminal investigations.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue lost to the Exchequer due to tax evasion arising from serious and organised crime in the latest period for which figures are available. [12756]

Mr Gauke: In "Protecting Tax Revenues 2009"

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report, HMRC estimated that criminal attacks accounted for 12.5% of the total tax gap of £40 billion in 2007-08.

Tax Yields: Entertainments

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the contribution of the British amusements industry to *(a)* Exchequer receipts from tax and duty and *(b)* the economy in each of the last three years. [12382]

Justine Greening: The amusement industry in the UK is subject to various tax regimes including amusement machine licence duty (AMLD) and VAT.

The following table shows HMRC revenue figures from AMLD for the last three years, which are available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Financial year	*£ million*
2007-08	220
2008-09	213
2009-10	216

VAT revenue figures are not split down sufficiently to provide information for the amusement industry explicitly.

The Office for National Statistics measures the industry's contribution to the economy as gross value added (GVA). Although GVA figures are not available for the amusement industry, a breakdown is available for gambling and betting activities, as well as for fair and amusement park activities, as follows:

Approximate GVA at basic prices

			£ million
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Gambling and betting activities	3,850	4,503	4,552
Fair and amusement park activities	365	348	334

Tax Yields: Public Houses

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the contribution of the British pub industry to *(a)* Exchequer receipts and *(b)* the economy in each of the last 10 years. [12889]

Justine Greening: The contribution of the British pub industry to exchequer receipts has not been estimated. Figures from alcohol duty receipts in the UK are published monthly by HMRC in the alcohol duty bulletin, available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullAlcohol

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) provide estimates of the contribution of pubs and bars to the UK economy, measured as the approximate gross value added (GVA) at basic prices. Figures for the latest 10 years for which data are available are given in the following table.

	GVA (£ million)
1999	5,699
2000	5,742
2001	6,174
2002	6,612
2003	6,792
2004	7,951
2005	7,298
2006	7,739
2007	7,358
2008	7,297

Source:
ONS

Taxation

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of *(a)* a regressive and *(b)* a progressive tax he uses. [9472]

Mr Gauke: A progressive tax is one where the impact on lower income or expenditure households or individuals is smaller than the impact on higher income or expenditure households or individuals. Annex A in Budget 2010 shows the combined impact of tax and benefit changes on households relative to their overall income or expenditure.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his review of aviation tax will include *(a)* a consideration of change in the rate of air passenger duty and *(b)* introduction of a per-flight duty; and if he will make a statement. [11784]

Justine Greening: The Budget announced that the Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty. Major changes will be subject to consultation.

Taxation: Gambling

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors he took into account in setting the rate of gross profits tax levied on *(a)* bingo clubs and *(b)* bookmakers. [12545]

Justine Greening: The rates of general betting duty and bingo duty were set by the previous Government. The previous Government reduced the rate of bingo duty from 22% to 20% at the March 2010 Budget. The June 2010 Budget left rates unchanged. All taxes, including gambling taxes, are kept under review.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12976]

Justine Greening: Spend on taxis for 2002-03 to 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

	£000
2002-03	163
2003-04	151
2004-05	149
2005-06	181
2006-07	188
2007-08	216
2008-09	219
2009-10	211

As a result of the introduction of a new accounting system in 2002-03, provision of information prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11676]

Justine Greening: Payments to trade unions since 2002-03 are shown in the following table. Information on prior years is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system in 2002-03.

	£
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	145
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	930
2009-10	170

Inline with the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities" the Treasury allocates facilities in the form of office space and access to computer and telephone equipment for use by the department's trades union representative. At current prices the value of the facilities is approximately £22,000 per annum. Figures for earlier years are not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

VAT

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the average proportion of gross income which the poorest 20% of households composed of retired people will pay in value added tax in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15; [9834]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effects of the planned increase in the standard rate of value added tax on the average *(a)* household composed of retired people and *(b)* retired individual in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [9835]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to reducing the Budget deficit while supporting the most vulnerable. The Emergency Budget demonstrated this commitment by confirming that the Government will uprate the basic state pension by a triple guarantee of earnings, prices and 2%—whichever is highest—from April 2011, benefiting over 11 million pensioners. The Government will increase the basic state pension in April 2011 by at least the equivalent of RPI.

Using gross rather than net income to assess the proportionate impact of tax and benefit changes takes no account of the impact of support to pensioners, such as the above-indexation increase in April 2011 to the standard minimum income guarantee in pension credit, which helps households achieve higher levels of consumption. Looking at this higher consumption without the support that helped enable it may provide a misleading picture of the overall impacts.

As such the analysis in Annex A of the Budget has been based on net incomes. No estimate has been made of the average proportion of gross income which the poorest 20% of households composed of retired people will pay in value added tax in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

Mr David: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that all goods and services specifically for children attract the same rate of value added tax as children's books. [11775]

Mr Gauke: Most books, including children's picture books and painting books, are currently zero-rated for VAT. However, agreements with our EU partners prevent us from extending the scope of existing zero rates, or introducing new ones. We could not therefore extend the zero rate to all goods and services specifically for children.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the future level of value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [12111]

Mr Gauke: The Treasury receives representations on a wide range of issues. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

A full range of views on the future rate of VAT was aired during the recent passage of the Finance (No. 2) Act 2010 in July this year.

VAT: Gyms

Karen Lumley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate of value added tax is applicable to membership fees of gymnasiums and health clubs in *(a)* public and *(b)* private ownership. [11906]

Mr Gauke: Under EU VAT agreements, sporting services are exempt when supplied by certain non-profit making organisations, such as sports and leisure trusts and when supplied by members' clubs to their members. However, these services are taxable at the standard rate of VAT when supplied by local authorities and commercial organisations, and by members' clubs to persons who are not members.

Membership fees therefore also follow this VAT treatment when they are payment for sporting services. 'Social' memberships, which do not confer any rights to participate in sporting activities, are always taxable at the standard rate of VAT.

VAT: Scotland

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an impact assessment in respect of the effect on Scotland of the increase in value added tax. [12112]

Mr Gauke: The VAT increase should be considered in the context of the Budget, which sets out a plan for dealing decisively with the deficit, which will be to the benefit of everyone across the United Kingdom. The Budget documentation, notably annexes A and C of the June 2010 Budget Book, describe the impact of the Budget and of the increase in the rate of VAT.

Welfare Tax Credits: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were asked in error to repay tax credits in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last five years. [12542]

Mr Gauke: This information is not available, as HMRC's systems do not provide information on disputes related to tax credits by geographical area other than the UK as a whole.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London have been asked to repay tax credits in each year since their creation; and what the monetary value was of those requested repayments in each of those years. [12547]

Mr Gauke: The number of tax credits awards, and the amounts, that were overpaid by each parliamentary constituency, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis". The figures are available for 2003-09, and can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12813]

Justine Greening: Wine or other forms of alcoholic refreshments are not separately recorded within the Treasury's accounting system and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to question 7850, tabled on 7 July 2010, on the Office for Budget Responsibility. [12558]

Justine Greening: A reply was given to the hon. Member today.

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to answer question 7901, on equality impact assessment of the June 2010 Budget, tabled on 7 July by the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford; [12852]

(2) when he plans to answer question 7212, on the effect of the June 2010 Budget on men and women, tabled on 6 July 2010 by the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford. [12853]

Justine Greening: A reply was given to the right hon. Member on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 520-21W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Diplomatic Service

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of his Department's staff formerly based at the British Embassy in Bogota were subsequently serving at the British Embassy in Kabul in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [12885]

Alistair Burt: The method used to record internal appointments in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office means that we cannot provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much aid his Department has allocated to Afghanistan in each year since 2002. [12758]

Alistair Burt: All UK civilian funding in Afghanistan is aligned to strategic priorities and subject to a robust planning regime. A programme office, based in Kabul, oversees governance processes that monitor expenditure and reports progress. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's funding is made up of three categories: the Strategic Programme Fund, which supports the Government's most important international goals; the Bilateral Programme Budget, which is used to enhance bilateral relations between two countries; and the Conflict Pool, a tri-departmental pool created to enhance the effectiveness of the UK's contribution towards conflict prevention and management. The following tables give their total allocation figures for each year since 2002. This includes the total amount of the Conflict Pool available to the Ministry of Defence, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as the pool is not divided into three parts but allocated on a project-by-project basis throughout the year to the three departments.

These programme funds do not, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not, directly administer aid to Afghanistan. Rather, these are funds available for development-related programmes and projects on or in Afghanistan.

Table 1

Financial year	*Total*
2002-03	18,000,000.00
2003-04	23,800,000.00
2004-05	25,629,534.00
2005-06	20,000,000.00
2006-07	41,396,004.00
2007-09	43,080,788.00
2008-009	86,296,232.00
2009-10	83,925,000.00
2010-11	86,660,000.09

Table 2

Financial year	*SPF*	*BPB*	*Conflict Pool*
2002-03		—	18,000,000.00
2003-04		—	23,800,000.00
2004-05		—	25,629,534.00
2005-06	—	—	20,000,000.00
2006-07	18,021,004.00	—	23,375,000.00
2007-08	14,880,788	—	28,200,000.00
2008-09	32,606,232	—	53,690,000.00
2009-10	11,700,000	425,000	71,800,000.00
2010-11	18,000,000	160,000	68,500,000

Arms Control: UN Resolutions

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 of 2004 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. [12685]

Alistair Burt: There is no one single piece of legislation covering the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540, but a wide range of national UK legislation is compatible with our obligations under the Resolution. The Biological Weapons Act, Chemicals Weapons Act, the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act, the Export Control Act, are examples of some of the UK legislation in place that meet UNSCR 1540 requirements. Regulations are also in place covering the storage and transport of materials to ensure the UK is in compliance with international guidelines. In addition to this the UK has recently ratified both the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The UK is working with other international organisations such as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and through the G8 to promote UNSCR 1540 implementation and bi-laterally to assist countries with adherence.

A full list of UK legislation is available at:

http://www.un.Org/sc/1540/nationalreports.shtml#U

Brazil: Dams

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Brazil on the ecological effect of the proposed construction of dams in the Amazon. [11990]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our embassy in Brasilia is closely following the proposed construction of dams in the Brazilian Amazon. As a rapidly developing economy, Brazil has many difficult decisions to make about how it can ensure that its development is as sustainable as possible, and not at the expense of Brazil's rainforests and the cultures and livelihoods of the indigenous peoples that live within them.

The Brazilian Environment Agency, IBAMA, is tasked with ensuring that construction processes comply with the environmental criteria set out in construction licences. These aim to minimise the impact of the construction and operation of the dams on the environment and on local communities.

The United Kingdom regularly makes clear to the Brazilian Government, both bilaterally and with our European partners, the importance we attach to these issues. We will continue to do so.

Burma: China

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on defence collaboration between China and Burma, with particular reference to the purchase by Burma of the K-8 aircraft from China. [12295]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of media reports alleging that the Burmese military regime purchased K-8 aircraft from China.

The EU has had a comprehensive arms embargo in place against Burma for a number of years. Moreover, the Government are committed to the view that no one should be selling arms to a military regime with an appalling human rights record.

The Chinese Government are well aware of our concerns over arms sales to a country where the military is involved in violent suppression of its citizens.

Burma: Nuclear Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent reports that Burma is attempting to acquire nuclear weapons. [12296]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of recent media reporting suggesting that Burma may be seeking to develop military nuclear capability. We take such issues very seriously, and remind all states to adhere to their obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and all relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

We continue to urge Burma to act strictly in accordance with its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, to abide by the terms and conditions of its International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement and to declare all nuclear material in its possession.

Our ambassador to Rangoon has lobbied the Burmese regime on their obligations under UN sanctions and raised proliferation concerns with senior members of the military regime. Burma cannot afford to risk the grave consequences of breaching the measures that have been adopted to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Central African Republic: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent reports of violence in the north of the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement. [12291]

Mr Bellingham: We are concerned about recent reports of violence in the Central African Republic (CAR), due to conflict between rebel groups and the CAR authorities.

We encourage all parties to fully engage with the government of CAR in its Disarmament, Demobilisation and Rehabilitation (DDR) process, to make progress towards reconciliation, and to provide the necessary stability for elections early next year. The UK also supports the efforts of the UN Peace Building Office (BINUCA) which is working to encourage the DDR process as well as reform of the security sector. We also support the UN peacekeeping operation MINURCAT's work to protect civilians and promote human rights and regional peace until its mandate ends in December 2010.

While we do not have direct representation in CAR, we continue to engage with non-governmental organisations and international stakeholders on the political, humanitarian and security situation in the country.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government is providing to the MINURCAT mission. [12292]

Mr Bellingham: As a Permanent Member of the Security Council, we provide financial support for MINURCAT through our obligatory financial contributions to UN peacekeeping. So far this financial year (2010-11), we have provided £9.7 million to the mission. As MINURCAT is due to withdraw in December 2010, our total contribution will be confirmed after negotiations on MINURCAT's final budget have been concluded in the General Assembly later this year.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13032]

Alistair Burt: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12344]

Alistair Burt: Sales of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) properties from April 2006 to date are set out in the following table listing the type of property, location, date of sale and approximate sterling receipt (gross). Details of earlier FCO sales, and property sales by agencies and non-departmental public bodies, are not held centrally and to provide such further detail would incur disproportionate cost.

It was agreed in the 1997 comprehensive spending review settlement that the FCO should retain 100% of the proceeds from property sales for re-investment, up to an agreed ceiling for each spending review period, which has not been exceeded. Funds generated from the sale of FCO estate assets have been recycled into the Department's capital budget for reinvestment in the estate. The FCO always ensures best value for money in all asset sales.

FCO property sales[1]

Sale date	*Location*	*Property type*	*Gross proceeds (£)*
2006			
10 April	Montreal	Residence	693,000
11 April	Wellington	Residential	124,000
27 April	Wellington	Residential	105,000
15 May	Bangkok	Compound	49,927,000
19 May	Kampala	Office	2,106,000
12 June	Ottawa	Residential	129,000
14 June	Asuncion	Office	106,000
21 June	Stanley	Residential	90,000
26 June	Rio de Janeiro	Residence	264,000
30 June	Stockholm	Residential	386,000
13 July	Tel Aviv	Residential	191,000
16 August	Kingstown	Residence	184,000
25 August	Bordeaux	Residence	753,000
26 September	Nassau	Residence	462,000
2007			
13 February	Vienna	Residence	1,161,000
16 March	Mbabane	Residence	205,000
16 March	Mbabane	Residential	113,000
16 March	Mbabane	Residential	88,000
4 April	Windhoek	Residential	89,000
5 April	Windhoek	Residential	60,000
30 June	Copenhagen	Residential	357,000
30 June	Madrid	Residential	476,000
28 August	Chicago	Residential	399,000
17 September	Seattle	Residence	773,000
9 October	Maseru	Residential	64,900
9 October	Maseru	Residential	45,400
26 October	Abidjan	Residential	85,274
7 November	Seoul	Residential	1,551,732
31 December	The Hague	Residential	1,076,441
2008			
1 January	Copenhagen	Residential	491,338
4 January	Lisbon	Residence	6,718,441
28 February	Maseru	Residence	121,530
4 March	Paris	Residential	227,773
7 March	Paris	Residential	227,773
10 March	Paris	Residential	279,402
10 March	Paris	Residential	265,735
18 March	Paris	Residential	318,882
19 March	Paris	Residential	455,546
20 March	Paris	Residential	341,660
25 March	Paris	Residential	330,271

FCO property sales[1]

Sale date	*Location*	*Property type*	*Gross proceeds (£)*
16 May	Dublin	Residence	6,469,066
2 June	Amsterdam	Residence	3,195,266
5 June	Tallinn	Land	606,408
17 June	Madrid	Office	39,842,209
25 June	Wellington	Residential	332,436
2 July	Cape Town	Residence	576,048
8 July	Wellington	Residential	236,562
1 August	Stockholm	Residential	634,714
8 August	Durban	Residence	174,568
22 August	Buenos Aires	Residential	144,645
25 August	Ottawa	Residential	153,606
2 September	Manila	Office	1,480,908
30 September	Wellington	Residential	244,004
17 October	Ottawa	Residential	352,306
10 October	Wellington	Residential	206,381
17 November	Ottawa	Residential	406,355
7 November	Wellington	Residential	122,026
18 December	Madrid	Residential	1,950,222
31 December	Lilongwe	Residential	186,396
2009			
1 April	Lima	Residential	123,720
1 April	Victoria (Seychelles)	Residential	310,000
8 May	Lilongwe	Residential	129,305
8 May	Lilongwe	Residential	129,305
22 May	Dar Es Salaam	Residential	495,121
26 May	Abidjan	Residential	92,497
11 September	Kingstown	Office	246,716
17 February	Abidjan	Office	202,500
29 September	Gabarone	Residential	243,468
31 November	St Johns	Residence	268,178
15 October	Ottawa	Residential	196,056
30 October	Vientiane	Residential	1,219,680
3 November	Berne	Residential	1,315,860
2010			
12 January	Almaty	Offices	147,000
3 February	Dar es Salaam	Amenity	328,548
3 February	Dar es Salaam	Residential	392,502
26 February	Paris	Residential	322,514
3 March	Colombo	Residential	2,047,500
26 March	Paris	Residential	516,083
26 March	Paris	Residential	467,294
15 April	The Hague	Residential	309,260

[1] No data available centrally pre-April 2006

[2] Asuncion: 55% of balance received, remainder due later in financial year

Source:

Data compiled from Quarterly Management letters

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [12657]

Alistair Burt: Responsibility for procuring external consultants within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is devolved to individual FCO directorates, departments, executive agencies and overseas posts. Information on individual daily rates are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12793]

Alistair Burt: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12730]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not cancelled any significant information technology projects during the past five years. To provide more detailed information, on small individual projects, would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's specialist human rights staff were posted overseas on the most recent date for which information is available; at which locations each is based; how long each has been in post; at which previous locations each has served his Department; and if he will make a statement. [12759]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers human rights training to all staff, particularly those going out to posts overseas. All overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights with their host countries and therefore many FCO staff posted overseas, including ambassadors, work on human rights issues. Staff recruited locally to work at posts overseas may also work on human rights issues. We cannot provide more detailed information or the proportion of time staff spend working on human rights issues overseas without incurring disproportionate cost.

EU External Relations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at what intergovernmental meetings outside the geographical area of the EU the EU was represented as an entity in the last 12 months. [11210]

Mr Lidington: The EU attends a large number of intergovernmental meetings either in its capacity as an international organisation or as an observer. The Government do not keep a central record of all these meetings. The information cannot therefore be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of which international organisations representatives of the EU have an increased right of participation to represent Community interests since the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. [11211]

Mr Lidington: The Lisbon Treaty does not give the EU increased rights of representation in any international organisation. We will carefully examine any request for additional rights of representation for the EU delegation in an international organisation after a thorough cost-benefit analysis of all the legal and political issues. Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty the EU has only sought enhanced observership rights in respect of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Further to my written ministerial statement issued on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 31-32WS we agree that the EU delegation should have these rights so that it can represent EU member states in the same way as the EU rotating presidency has previously done. Our support for the proposed UNGA resolution does not imply agreement to additional rights for the EU in any other forums.

European External Action Service

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Europe in the debate on the European External Action Service of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1056, if he will give a detailed breakdown of the £400 million estimated cost of the European External Action Service. [10630]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* Any calculation of the cost of the European External Action Service (EEAS) will necessarily be provisional until presentation of the EEAS draft budget, expected in mid-September 2010. We expect that the European Commission will issue an amending letter detailing the redistribution of expenditure. I will deposit this letter in Parliament. However, taking the most recent year for which actual figures are available, 2009, the total cost of the Commission and Council services which, according to provisional plans, will be transferred into the EEAS is in the order of €398.5 million. This figure does not represent the entire cost of the EEAS, which will also include seconded member state nationals, a part of the staff of the EU Special Representatives, and administrative costs which have not yet been fully laid out. This figure is based on the assumption (subject to some change as details are worked through) that the units that will move are:

the Directorate-General for External Relations (DG Relex) (although not all staff in delegations);

half of Directorate-General Development (including staff in delegations);

half of the cost to DG Relex of delegations;

12.5% of the non-building (ie staff and ancillary costs) of the Council Secretariat.

The costs of these four items for the last year for which we have actual figures of money spent, 2009, are: €11 million; €97.4 million; €128 million; and €59 million. This gives a combined total of €398.5 million.

Gambia: Elections

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the government of Gambia on the conduct of elections in that country in 2011. [11567]

Mr Bellingham: The UK, as Permanent Representative of the Presidency of the European Union (EU) in The Gambia, has raised issues surrounding the upcoming elections during the consultation process under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement between EU countries and the Gambia. The UK is also active in International Donor Group meetings with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) which are designed to assist in the capacity building and strengthening of the IEC and other local civil society organisations to organise credible elections.

Hezbollah

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* Egyptian, *(c)* Lebanese and *(d)* US counterpart on bilateral counter-terrorist co-operation, with particular reference to action in respect of Hezbollah. [12577]

Alistair Burt: The UK has ongoing dialogue with these countries on a wide range of bilateral co-operation issues, including counter-terrorism.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Israeli counterpart, *(b)* his Egyptian counterpart, *(c)* his Lebanese counterpart and *(d)* his US counterpart on Hezbollah's military capability in southern Lebanon. [12963]

Alistair Burt: During my recent visit to Lebanon, I raised the issue of Hezbollah's military capability with Foreign Minister Ali Shami and with Prime Minister Hariri, underlining the need for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, and for tackling Hezbollah disarmament.

Indonesia: EU External Relations

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether religious freedom was discussed as a priority in the recent EU-Indonesia human rights dialogue; and what assessment he made of the outcomes of that dialogue. [11571]

Mr Jeremy Browne: At the UK's request, freedom of religion was included as a substantive item on the agenda of the first EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue held in June 2010. The EU noted Indonesia's efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue and raised concerns over the persecution of the Ahmadiyya community and recent attacks on Christians.

The dialogue was constructive. Agreement was reached to take forward co-operation in support of the Association of South East Asian Nations Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in multilateral forums (such as the Human Rights Council) and to explore possible assistance for juvenile justice and efforts to combat child labour, trafficking and child sexual exploitation in Indonesia.

Intergovernmental Conference

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the agenda and *(b)* each other paper circulated to participants relating to each Inter-governmental Conference attended by the UK before each such conference. [11263]

Mr Lidington: I have placed a copy of the recent Protocol concerning the composition of the European Parliament in the Library of the House.

The other information requested can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

International Atomic Energy Agency: Finance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department allocated to the International Atomic Energy Agency in each of the last five years. [12686]

Alistair Burt: The UK's Global Threat Reduction Programme, which is run jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), has given the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) a Nuclear Security Fund of £6 million since 2005, paid in two instalments of £2 million in 2006 and £4 million in 2009.

The FCO has also paid the IAEA tax refunds totalling £270,397.55 since 2005, broken down into payments of £5,454 in 2005; £3,219.96 in 2006; £45,541.89 in 2007; £111,282.46 in 2008; and £104,899.24 in 2009. The FCO has not allocated any further funds to the IAEA in each of the last five years, as DECC and the Department for International Development (DFID) are primarily responsible for UK contributions to the Agency.

Iran: Missiles

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the range of Iran's ballistic missiles; [12965]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* US, *(c)* Egyptian and *(d)* Jordanian counterpart on the range of Iran's ballistic missiles; [12966]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the range of Iran's ballistic missiles. [12967]

Alistair Burt: The Iranian ballistic missile programme continues to be of serious proliferation concern because of their utility as weapons of mass destruction (WMD) delivery systems. Recent developments have greatly increased the range of the missiles and reduced the launch preparation time. This technology has facilitated the construction of a missile capable of delivering a payload both regionally and into western Europe, from Moscow to Greece.

The threat that Iran poses has been at the top of the counter-proliferation agenda, with the UK working with others on six UN Security Council Resolutions condemning Iran's activities. These have repeatedly called for the cessation of Iranian enrichment activity, transparency over its nuclear facilities and suspension of its long range ballistic missile programme. During the negotiations of these resolutions, we considered the threat posed by Iran's WMD and ballistic missile programme in its entirety, making it impossible to isolate individual conversations on the missile threat.

The UK rigorously imposes sanctions authorised by these resolutions, including embargoes on the supply of technology for the Iranian missile programme. Complementing this work is the UK membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime that maintains a watch-list on sensitive technology and materials for Iran.

Iraq: Trade Unions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Iraq on the effect of its recent ministerial decree regarding trade unions in the electricity industry. [12010]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador to Iraq met the Acting Electricity Minister on 1 August 2010 to discuss the Ministerial Order of 20 July 2010 relating to activities of unions at the Ministry of Electricity and its departments and sites. Officials from our embassy in Baghdad also raised the issue with the Inspector General of the Ministry of Electricity on 5 August 2010. The UK will continue to encourage the Government of Iraq to ensure a just, fair and International Labour Organisation-compliant union law. The right to form and join trade unions in Iraq is embodied in Article 22 of the Iraqi constitution. This is a principle to which the Government attach great importance and take very seriously.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the position of trade unions in Iraq in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [12011]

Alistair Burt: Officials from our embassy in Baghdad and Consulate General in Erbil have discussed the situation of unions with union representatives in Iraq in the last 12 months. These include representatives from the Electricity, Journalists, Teachers and Kurdish Workers Unions. The right to form and join trade unions in Iraq is embodied in Article 22 of the Iraqi constitution. This is a principle to which the Government attach great importance. The draft Iraqi Labour Code, which will include regulations affecting unions, remains with the Council of Ministers for comment. The UK will continue to encourage the Government of Iraq to ensure a just, fair and International Labour Organisation-compliant union law.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the position of trade unions in the electricity sector in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [12012]

Alistair Burt: Officials from our embassy in Baghdad held discussions with the Leader of the Electricity Workers and Employees Union in July and they expressed concern about the current situation relating to unions in Iraq. The Ministry of Electricity has informed officials at our embassy that an investigation into the conduct of activities relating to unions at the Ministry of Electricity is being carried out. The results of the investigation will be made public. We await the outcome of this investigation. We will continue to discuss the situation with Iraqi officials and US and EU colleagues.

Israel

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support co-existence education projects in Israel. [10743]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Tel Aviv is supporting the Hand in Hand Centre for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel. Our embassy has supported a range of projects through the centre including the development of new IT facilities, a sports field and a music room. The objective of this work is to contribute to a positive educational environment for Jewish and Arab Israeli children based on equality and co-existence.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on social equality in Israel. [10746]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Israel continues to engage with the Government of Israel and with Israeli civil society on social equality matters in Israel. The UK has also highlighted its concerns in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Report on Human Rights 2009.

Israel: Expenditure

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid to *(a)* B'Tselem, *(b)* HaMoked, *(c)* Yesh Din, *(d)* Ir Amim, *(e)* Bimkom, *(f)* the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, *(g)* the Israeli Committee Against House Demolition, *(h)* Gisha, *(i)* Association for Civil Rights in Israel, *(j)* Peace Now, *(k)* Mossawa and *(l)* Breaking the Silence in each financial year since 2005-06; for what purposes those payments were made; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's spending on each such programme or project undertaken by each such organisation. [11499]

Alistair Burt: The tri-departmental Conflict Pool and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Bilateral programme funds support the Government's aim of reducing conflict in the middle east and North Africa region in order to help safeguard British national security. Our Conflict Prevention programmes in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories are jointly managed by the FCO, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence. They work to improve the political environment in support of the peace process, including tackling difficult issues such as settlements and alleged human rights violations on both sides. Our Bilateral programme strengthens our relations with countries in the middle east and North Africa region. We work with both the Palestinian Authority to enhance their capacity for tackling violence and with Israeli institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Many of the initiatives we support work to promote equality and human rights, build trust between communities, reduce violence inside the Occupied Palestinian Territories and advance peace. The NGOs we work with have helped to raise awareness of Israel's obligations under international law with regard to settlement activity and human rights violations. They also work to ensure due legal process is adhered to by Israeli authorities. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of all programmes is a requirement for all our funding commitments. Since we began supporting these programmes there have been a number of changes to Israeli civil and military judicial practice and decisions, and increased public debate on these issues.

A vibrant, independent and diverse civil society is one of Israel's great strengths and we believe that continuing British support will assist in strengthening democratic processes. By raising awareness and creating an environment where people are able to learn more about the situation and realities on the ground, the projects we support play a crucial role in creating sustainable conditions for peace.

Of those NGOs referred to in my hon. Friend's question, the following have been funded through our Conflict Prevention programmes (the Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool—MENA CP):

B'Tselem

Project purpose: Using film and video documentation as a tool for accountability to improve the human rights situation in the west bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Funding: 2010-11—£135,000 (provisional allocation).

B'Tselem & HaMoked (jointly)

Project purpose: To support freedom of movement for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories through legal and administrative action, advocacy and public education. Funding: 2005-06—£140,000, 2006-07—£150,000.

Yesh Din

Project purpose: (2006 to 2008) Using legal action and public advocacy to challenge and ensure compliance with due process within Israeli military courts.

Project purpose: (2008 to 2010) To challenge Israeli settlement construction and increase Palestinian access to lands in the west bank through legal actions and public advocacy. Funding: 2006-07—£55,529, 2007-08—£74,256, 2008-09—£125,000, 2009-10—£142,000, 2010-11—£83,755 (provisional allocation).

Ir Amim

Project purpose: To influence the nature and quality of public policy debate and ultimately Israeli policy in line with political options for a sustainable two-state solution. Funding: 2005-06—£70,000, 2006-07—£100,133, 2007-08—£60,000, 2008-09—£127,850.

Bimkom

Project purpose: (2006 to 2010): To provide comprehensive information on the planning situation of Palestinian villages in Area C, to support the prevention of house demolitions and improve living conditions of residents. Funding: 2006-07—£11,366, 2007-08—£45,956, 2009-10—£22,978.

Gisha

Project purpose: To use legal actions and public advocacy to support free movement and access to goods, and to document human rights violations in Gaza. Funding: 2008-09—£70,010.

Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)

Project purpose: (2006 to 2008) To raise awareness of Israeli obligations under international law to safeguard the rights of Palestinians in Hebron, through public advocacy and legal actions.

Project purpose: (2008-2009) To raise awareness of Israeli obligations under international law to safeguard the rights of Palestinians and to reduce incidents of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Palestinians in the west bank through public advocacy and legal actions Funding: 2006-07—£42,000, 2007-08—£36,742, 2008-09—£73,000.

Peace Now

Project purpose: To record, highlight and challenge settlement expansion activities, through legal action, public advocacy and dialogue with Israeli officials. Funding: 2006-07—£109,990, 2007-08—£52,696, 2008-09—£117,000, 2009-10—£100,000, 2010-11—£93,000 (provisional allocation).

Breaking the Silence

Project purpose: To raise international and Israeli public awareness of human rights violations in the Hebron area. Funding: 2006-07—£19,144, 2007-08—£32,856, 2008-09—£26,701, 2009-10—£56,455, 2010-11—£74,434 (provisional allocation).

Two of the NGOs referred to were supported by our bilateral programme funds. They were:

Bimkom

Project purpose: (2005-06): To investigate planning considerations of the route of the Separation Barrier and assist Palestinian communities to raise concerns. Funding: 2005-06—£30,000.

Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)

Project purpose: To increase legal aid and advocacy work in cases of alleged torture and to support adoption of a human rights-based agenda. Funding: 2006-07—£15,000, 2007-08—£29,955.

Israeli Committee against House Demolition (ICAHD) and Mossawa have not been funded by either the MENA CP or the FCO Bilateral programme fund.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the cost of importing and exporting goods through the *(a)* Kerem Shalom crossing in the latest period for which information is available and *(b)* Karni crossing in 2006. [11996]

Mr Duncan: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made an estimate of the costs incurred in exporting or importing goods through either Karni or Kerem Shalom crossings. It would be very difficult to make an estimate of these costs and there are a number of factors which may affect the cost, such as whether or not the goods need to be stored, and by whom the goods are being imported or exported.

Kashmir

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to visit Kashmir. [11561]

Alistair Burt: At present there are no plans for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to visit either Indian Administered Kashmir or Pakistan Administered Kashmir. The Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan from 23 to 25 June and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary visited India from 28 to 30 July.

These visits demonstrate the importance the Government attaches to our bilateral relationships in South Asia.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the political situation in Kashmir with his Pakistani and Indian counterparts; and when he next expects to do so. [11562]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi during his visit to Pakistan from 23 to 25 June 2010. He also met Indian Foreign Minister SM Krishna during his visit to India from 28 to 30 July 2010. The Foreign Secretary discussed regional issues including relations between India and Pakistan during these meetings.

The long standing position of the UK on Kashmir is that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution to the situation on both sides of the Line of Control, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to mediate in finding one.

Maldives: Politics and Government

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on political disturbances in the Maldives; and if he will make a statement. [12371]

Alistair Burt: As I have made clear publicly, the Government welcome the progress being made in the Maldives towards resolving the political stalemate which has unsettled the country in recent weeks. On 10 August 2010, the Parliament passed the Judges Act and endorsed the nominees to the Supreme Court including the Chief Justice, all of which had previously been subject to deadlock by the political parties.

I have spoken with senior Maldivian Government, Parliamentary and Opposition figures in the light of this welcome step forward, to express the UK's continued support for the democratic process in the Maldives, which is so essential for the country's future, and to urge all parties to work together to resolve their differences, so that the people of the Maldives can have renewed confidence in the political and constitutional process.

Mexico: Foreign Relations

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to strengthen the UK's relations with Mexico. [11563]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are increasing high-level engagement with Mexico. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met President Calderon at the G20 Summit in Toronto; my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has met his equivalent, Patricia Espinosa; and the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) and I regularly meet the Mexican ambassador to the UK.

In these exchanges there has been a focus on how we can work closer in the Security Council—and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers will be taking this work forward at the UN General Assembly in September.

We are fully supportive of Mexico's leadership of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and we are working in close co-operation to ensure an international agreement on a balanced package of measures at the Cancun Summit.

The UK and Mexico are also stepping up efforts to boost bilateral trade and investment. This will be an important focus of our annual High Level Political Talks in the autumn. I will host the talks and the Mexican delegation will be led by the Mexican Deputy Foreign Minister, Lourdes Aranda.

Nagorno Karabakh

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the UK contribution to a resolution of the political situation between Azerbaijan and Armenia to enable internally displaced persons to return to Nagorno Karabakh and surrounding regions. [12691]

Mr Lidington: The Government continue to support the conflict settlement efforts of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Minsk Group to find a solution for Nagorno Karabakh on the basis of international norms and principles, including non-use of force, territorial integrity and self-determination. In our bilateral contacts, we continue to encourage Armenia and Azerbaijan to work towards a lasting solution to the conflict. Most recently I raised the issue with the Armenian and Azeri Foreign Ministers in the margins of the OSCE Ministerial held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 16-17 July. UK bilateral funding continues, through the Conflict Pool, to support peace-building projects in Nagorno Karabakh and elsewhere in the South Caucasus.

Pakistan: Ahmadiyya

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Pakistan on the safety of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in that country; and if he will make a statement. [12945]

Alistair Burt: Our high commissioner in Islamabad has raised the issue of discrimination suffered by the Ahmadiyya community with the Chief Minister of Punjab alongside his European Union colleagues. Our high commission has also raised the issue bilaterally with the Pakistani authorities, including with the Ministry for Minorities and the Ministry of the Interior.

During her visit to Pakistan in July 2010, Baroness Warsi discussed the Punjab Government's response to the attacks in May with the Punjab's Chief Minister and Chief Secretary.

Palestinians: Imports

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate his Department has made of the monthly volume of imports *(a)* required to meet the needs of the population of Gaza and *(b)* the volume of imports to Gaza in the latest period for which figures are available. [12014]

Mr Duncan: Estimating Gaza's import need is difficult. Most international aid agencies and NGOs use a benchmark of 11,228 truckloads per month or 2,807 per week. These figures represent the average number of truckloads that entered Gaza during the first five months of 2007, before Israel imposed severe access restrictions. However this benchmark does not include imports of materials needed for reconstruction following Operation Cast Lead. Gaza's population has also grown and fuel for the power station is now delivered by truck, rather than pipeline.

The United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that during the period 8-14 August 2010, 1129 truckloads of goods (55 humanitarian and 1,074 commercial) were imported into Gaza through Kerem Shalom and Karni crossings. This is 40% of the 2007 weekly average.

Data on import volumes entering Gaza are published online by the UN at:

http://www.ochaopt.org/GazaCrossings.aspx?id=1010003

Palestinians: International Assistance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Egypt to comply with their obligations to facilitate access to Gaza under the Agreement on Movement and Access of November 2005 and UN Security Resolution 1860; and if he will make a statement. [11535]

Alistair Burt: The Government have made clear that the situation in Gaza is a tragedy and unsustainable. We continue to underline the need for implementation of the steps Israel announced on 20 June and to work with all relevant parties to secure concrete change on the ground. We also reiterate, to those concerned, the need to implement their commitments under UN Security Council Resolution 1860 and the Movement and Access Agreement of November 2005.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Israeli counterpart on changes to access that have occurred since the new Israeli access regime for Gaza was introduced following the statements of Prime Minister Netanyahu on 20 June and 5 July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [11538]

Alistair Burt: The UK has an ongoing dialogue with the Government of Israel at both ministerial and official level covering a wide range of issues including Gaza. We, together with the EU and Quartet, have called on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also underlined the important role the Palestinian economy, whether in Gaza or on the West Bank, will play in contributing towards a viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli and Palestinian counterparts on access for people and goods to Gaza since the statements of Netanyahu on 20 June and 5 July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [11540]

Mr Duncan: I have been asked to reply.

Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had any discussions with Israeli or Palestinian Ministers regarding access for goods and people into Gaza since 20 June.

Department for International Development (DFID) officials continue to raise the issue of access for goods and people with the relevant Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on restoring the customs code for Gaza. [12949]

Alistair Burt: The UK has an ongoing dialogue with the Government of Israel at both ministerial and official level covering a wide range of issues including Gaza.

We, together with the EU and Quartet, have called on Israel to ease restrictions on access. It is imperative that all parties now work together urgently to deliver real change on the ground. This will mean building capacity at the crossings, getting vital reconstruction projects up and running and ensuring that Gazans can export as well as import goods.

We have not had specific discussions on a customs code for Gaza. However, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has underlined the important role the Palestinian economy, whether in Gaza or on the West Bank, will play in contributing towards a viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility of access restrictions on Gaza with the Interim Association Agreement between the EU and the Palestinian Authority. [12950]

Alistair Burt: Two of the objectives of the Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Co-operation between the European Union and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority are to contribute to the economic and social development of Gaza and the west bank and to encourage regional co-operation towards peace and stability. The restrictions on Gaza clearly do not contribute to the achievement of these objectives. Along with our EU partners, we have called on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality. All parties must now work together urgently to deliver real change on the ground.

Somalia: Foreign Policy

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his long-term foreign policy objectives are for Somalia. [11566]

Mr Bellingham: For Somalia, our long-term foreign policy objective is to create sufficient stability to gradually deny space for those who threaten both UK interests and regional security, providing security and development for the Somali population.

To this end, it is essential that the international community is closely co-ordinated behind the Djibouti Peace Process to ensure coherent and effective support to overcome obstacles to progress.

There is not simply a military solution in Somalia; political reconciliation is vital to Somalia's future security.

South America: Foreign Policy

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his foreign policy priorities are for South America. [11565]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has publicly stated, the Government are determined to increase the UK's engagement with the countries of South America, and Latin America more broadly. The region is an important ally in helping deliver our objective of safeguarding Britain's national security by countering weapons proliferation and working to reduce conflict. Latin America also includes a number of economic partners that are an important focus of the Government's prosperity agenda. In this we are not only aiming to increase bilateral trade and investment with countries in the region, but also promoting sustainable global growth, including by working with Brazil, Mexico and Argentina in the G20.

In advance of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties summit in Cancun, the Government will also be prioritising engagement with the region on the climate change agenda. As my right hon. Friends the Prime Minster and the Foreign Secretary have repeatedly stated, it is important to raise ambitions in advance of the summit and to secure a balanced package of measures in Cancun.

I was pleased to visit Colombia and Chile in August to discuss these issues personally with Presidents Santos and Piñera and their teams.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what involvement his Department has had in the Stategic Defence and Security Review; and if he will make a statement. [12784]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been playing a central role in setting the foreign policy context for the Cabinet Office-led Strategic Defence and Security Review process. This is a comprehensive review of the defence and security threats facing the UK and the capabilities that we have and shall need to address those threats and exploit opportunities for the UK. The FCO itself, and our network of overseas posts, are important capabilities which will be covered by the review. The FCO will continue to be involved at official level and the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), shall remain engaged through discussions in the National Security Council until the conclusion of the review.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12975]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently uses two contracts with private hire taxi companies: Addison Lee, covering the London area; and Raffles Taxis, covering the Milton Keynes area. Both contracts are used for both FCO departmental usage, and FCO Services. As FCO Services has been an independent trading fund since 1 April 2008, its expenditure is recorded and shown separately since that date. The following table shows the breakdown of costs by year.

FCO staff travel by the most efficient means of transport, bearing in mind the operational requirement and the need to secure value for money for the public purse. Public transport is used whenever possible and staff avoid using taxis on official business unless it is absolutely necessary. Expenditure is now closely monitored and as a result expenditure in financial year 2009-10 has shown a decrease.

Staff should not normally use a taxi at public expense between home and office—nor between airports and central London—except for journeys during the hours when public transport is not running. If it is absolutely necessary for staff to work after 9 pm or before 7 am, they may consider taking a taxi from their destination station to their home address or vice versa.

Taxi expenditure – Addison Lee and Raffles Taxis

£

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Raffles Taxis	90,302	180,241	172,661	156,201	150,373	143,191	161,708	188,897	See below	See below
Addison Lee	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	340,531	—	—
Raffles Taxis (FCO UK only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	93,449	61,559
Addison Lee (FCO UK only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	380,507	270,457
Raffles Taxis (FCO Services only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	134,067	161,328
Addison Lee (FCO Services only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,089	44,739

[1] Unavailable

Note:

All figures quoted are exclusive of VAT

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11674]

Alistair Burt: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11675]

Alistair Burt: We do not hold data going back to 1997 on the number of days Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff spent on trade union activities. Since 2005 however, there have been 9.5 full-time equivalent staff in the FCO and FCO Services elected by FCO union members each financial year to represent members. This equates to 0.2% of the Department's overall whole time equivalent staffing headcount. The FCO also allows up to 25 days time off for staff elected to the branch executive committees of their unions to engage in union activities. Actual time taken is not recorded centrally and is at the discretion of line management. We currently have 33 volunteer members of staff who are branch committee members.

The amount of trade union facility time allowed in the FCO is in compliance with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) code of practice 'Time off for trade union duties and activities'.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12812]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep central records of expenditure on wine across the Department.

Government Hospitality, which manages the Government Wine Cellar on behalf of all Government Departments, recorded the following expenditure on purchases (wines, spirits, beers, etc) in each year since 1997:

	£
1997-98	114,407
1998-99	103,277
1999-2000	84,793
2000-01	80,337
2001-02	92,772
2002-03	91,860
2003-04	93,503
2004-05	60,059
2005-06	95,264
2006-07	108,715
2007-08	137,460
2008-09	121,939
2009-10	80,662

The running down of stocks and low expenditure in 2004-05 was due to preparations for the UK presidencies of the G8 and European Union. It is not possible to separate the costs of wines from other stock for the cellar.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file (1) CPO 5/5, Publicity Material and Publications from Anti-Abortion Organisations; and if he will make a statement; [5535]

(2) CPO 3/6, Abortion Act 1967, Correspondence between Sir Bernard Braine MP and Minister of Health on matters concerning abortions in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement; [5536]

(3) CPO 2/10, Abortion (Amendment) Bill Committee Stage Briefing; and if he will make a statement. [5537]

Anne Milton: I have asked departmental officials to retrieve and examine the documentation requested by my hon. Friend. Once this has been done I will write to my hon. Friend and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

AIDS: Health Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to ring-fence the revenue grant for AIDS support; and if he will make a statement; [11040]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of removal of protection of the revenue grant for AIDS support on the provision of *(a)* (i) counselling, (ii) peer support and (iii) care services for people living with HIV and *(b)* funding for local HIV organisations providing specialist social care support to HIV-positive people not catered for by mainstream services. [11042]

Anne Milton: On 24 May, it was announced that the ring fence would now be lifted from a number of specific social care grants, including the AIDS support grant (ASG) with immediate effect.

The Government's view is that, in the current economic climate, local authorities are best placed to prioritise their own spending commitments based on the local pressures they face. By removing the ring-fencing of grants, we are giving authorities more freedom to direct funding in the most effective way and give local people the best service possible.

The AIDS support grant is now a long-running and embedded social care grant, and existing commissioning networks and local scrutiny arrangements will monitor grant spend at a local level. The Department has confirmed that the AIDS support grant will still be administered as a separate, specific social care grant in 2010-11, and that it will be maintained at the previously announced level of £25.5 million.

Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the voluntary industry agreement to place health warnings on the labels of alcoholic drinks. [11644]

Anne Milton: The most recent assessment of the effectiveness of the voluntary agreement was the second stage of independent monitoring conducted using samples taken in April 2009. The results of this exercise were published, alongside a public consultation on options for improving information on the labels of alcoholic drinks, in February this year and are available at the following web address:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Alcoholmisuse/DH_085390

The public consultation closed on 31 May and the responses to this exercise are now being analysed by departmental officials, who will be advising Ministers. We will set out our plans for next steps, in the coming months.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals were admitted to Peterborough District Hospital as a result of alcohol-related harm in each year since 2001; what the cost of treating such individuals was in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [11395]

Anne Milton: Information is not held in the format requested.

The following table shows the number of finished admission episodes which are estimated to be alcohol-related for Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from 2004-05 to 2008-09 and Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust from 2002-03 to 2003-04. We are unable to provide costs specifically related to alcohol harm.

However, the National Audit Office has carried out an audit of national health service spend on alcohol treatment. Its report, "Reducing Alcohol Harm: health services in England for alcohol misuse", was published in November 2008 and found, that where primary care trust expenditure on alcohol services was known, an average of £600,000 was spent on commissioning alcohol services in 2006-07.

Number of finished admission episodes which are estimated to be alcohol-related[1] for Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from 2004-05 to 2008-09 and Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust from 2002-03 to 2003-04

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Trust name		*Alcohol-related admission episodes*
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2008-09	5,726
	2007-08	5,236
	2006-07	4,432
	2005-06	4,432
	2004-05	4,174
Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust	2003-04	3,624
	2002-03	3,096

Notes:

1. Due to organisational changes Peterborough Hospital NHS Trust may not directly map to Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and therefore caution should be taken when comparing the figures before and after 2004 as data may not be directly comparable.

2. Alcohol-related admissions.

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at

http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf

3. The application of the NWPHO methodology has recently been updated and is now available directly from HES. As such, information about episodes estimated to be alcohol related may be slightly different from previously published data.

4. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis.

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

5. Data quality.

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

6. Assessing growth through time.
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received in support of a minimum unit price for alcoholic products. [11862]

Anne Milton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued public health guidance, "Alcohol-use disorders: preventing the development of hazardous and harmful drinking" in June. The guidance recommended that Government consider reviewing alcohol pricing and duty to reduce the affordability of alcohol, and to consider introducing a minimum price per unit.

In May, Tesco wrote to the Department saying it would support the Government in the event of a decision to introduce minimum unit pricing.

The Department has received correspondence supporting minimum unit price from the public. However, identifying the exact number could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Ankylosing Spondylitis

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on assistance for those with ankylosing spondylitis. [10862]

Mr Burstow: Ankylosing spondylitis is a specialist condition which can cause chronic pain. Treatments are aimed at monitoring mobility and managing pain. To do this effectively it is important to fully involve patients in decision making about their care through personalised care planning and where appropriate provide information to support self management.

Autism

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Royal Colleges and *(b)* other relevant professional bodies on training of staff working in mental health settings in autism. [12053]

Mr Burstow: Departmental officials have met with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and British Psychological Society to support the training of psychiatrists and clinical psychologists working across mental health services. The Department has commissioned specific training with these organisations addressing recognition, diagnosis and health needs of people with autism presenting to mental health services.

In addition we are working with the Royal College of Nursing, which includes psychiatric nurses working across all mental health services in the development of raising awareness of people with autism.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with stakeholders on the effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services for children with autism and co-occurring mental health problems. [12199]

Mr Burstow: This was discussed in a meeting that Mark Lever, chief executive of the National Autistic Society and I had on 27 July 2010.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department's White Paper will lead to improvements in the provision of health care for those with the most complex needs, with particular reference to children with autism and mental health problems. [12200]

Mr Burstow: The intention of the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" is to create a national health service which is much more responsive to patients and is focused on what really matters to patients and carers—continuously improving the outcomes of health care. The proposals will set the NHS free from day to day political interference. Services and commissioning, including for those with the most complex needs, will be clinically-led, evidence-based and bottom-up, not dictated top-down by politicians.

By publishing the White Paper the Government are now able to engage fully on the detail of how best to implement these changes, and this engagement process is now under way.

Autism: Health Services

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to support *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with autism. [11908]

Mr Burstow: We are committed to fulfilling the requirements of the Autism Act 2009 with the aim of addressing the disadvantages that children, young people and adults with autism can experience.

We launched consultation on draft statutory guidance to support delivery of the autism strategy. The guidance for health and social care bodies will be available by the end of the year. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has been commissioned to produce new clinical guidelines for children and adults with autism. Details of the consultation are available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_118058

Blood: Cancer

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 780W, on blood: cancer, which cancer networks are not in a position to set up haemato-pathology services by the end of December 2010; and what issues relating to the implementation of the guidance on setting up haemato-pathology services by this date remain to be resolved. [11646]

Mr Burstow: Of the 28 cancer networks, eight have fully implemented haemato-pathology services in line with the Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers guidance. Information regarding the remaining 20 is currently being collated by the National Cancer Action

Team. When this is complete, it will provide a clearer picture of which networks will be compliant by December 2010 and those that may not be, and the reasons for this.

Listed as follows are the 28 cancer networks and their status of compliance.

Strategic health authority	*Network*	*Status*
East of England	Anglia	To be confirmed
	Essex	To be confirmed
	Mount Vernon	To be confirmed
London	North London	To be confirmed
	South East London	Compliant
	South West London	To be confirmed
	West London	To be confirmed
	North East London	Compliant
North East	North of England	To be confirmed
Yorkshire and the Humber	Humber and Yorkshire Coast	Compliant
	Yorkshire	Compliant
	North Trent	Compliant
North West	Greater Manchester and Cheshire	Compliant
	Lancashire and South Cumbria	To be confirmed
	Merseyside and Cheshire	To be confirmed
South Central	Central South Coast	To be confirmed
	Thames Valley	To be confirmed
South East Coast	Kent	Compliant
	Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	To be confirmed
	Sussex	To be confirmed
South West	Dorset	To be confirmed
	Peninsula	To be confirmed
	Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	To be confirmed
	3 Counties	To be confirmed
East Midlands	East Midland	Compliant
West Midlands	Arden	To be confirmed
	Greater Midlands	To be confirmed
	Pan Birmingham	To be confirmed

Cancer: Children

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of trends in the survival rates for osteosarcoma in children in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [12003]

Mr Burstow: No assessment has been made of trends in the survival rates for osteosarcoma in children. The Office for National Statistics only produces cancer survival statistics for adults aged 15 to 99.

The following table provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of osteosarcoma in England for children aged between 0 and 14 years, in each year from 2003 to 2007.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of osteosarcoma[1], children[2], England[3], 2003-07[4]

	Children
2003	70
2004	44
2005	52
2006	56
2007	48

[1] Osteosarcoma is defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C40-C41.
[2] Children aged 14 years and under.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

We know that the prognosis for children diagnosed with osteosarcoma is significantly better if the cancer is found early and has not spread from the bone to other parts of the body. In 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published "Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer", to help general practitioners (GPs) refer patients with suspected cancers more quickly. The guidance includes a section focusing on children and young people with bone cancers, including osteosarcoma. The guidance can be found at the following link:

www.nice.org.uk/CG027

Cancer survival rates are improving for many cancers, and patients' experience of their care has improved. However, we believe more needs to be done. It is now generally agreed that the most important reasons for lower survival rates in England, compared with other European countries, are low public awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, delays in people presenting to their GPs, and patients having more advanced disease at diagnosis. We will be looking carefully at how best to achieve earlier diagnosis.

Care Homes: Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients admitted to hospital from residential care as a result of their diabetes in each of the last five years. [12360]

Mr Burstow: Although the NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes details of all admissions to national health service hospitals in England as Hospital Episode Statistics, the data returned for this question were not specific enough to identify those admitted from residential care. Therefore, a meaningful estimate of the number of patients admitted to hospital from residential care as a result of their diabetes in each of the last five years cannot be made.

Change4Life

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Change4Life campaign. [11607]

Anne Milton: Assessing the effectiveness of the Change4Life campaign is an ongoing process, which measures targets such as brand saliency, response to the family diet and activity survey "How are the Kids", and sign up to the C4L programme as well as capturing attitudes towards eating and physical activity and self-reported improvements in behaviour in those areas. A range of methods are used such as tracking (reporting monthly), bespoke surveys, web statistics (monthly) and buzz monitoring (regular reporting) to measure awareness of both the campaign overall and specific activities taking place at a national and local level as part of Change4Life campaign activity.

The most recently published assessment of the effectiveness of the campaign is in the "Change4Life One Year On" report published in February, which has been placed in the Library.

The direct marketing component of the Change4Life campaign is also subject to an ongoing academic evaluation by Professor Jane Wardle and Dr Helen Croker from University College London, the results of which will be published next year.

Dementia

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria have been used under the national audit of dementia services to determine the appropriateness of use of anti-psychotic drugs to treat dementia; [12399]

(2) who has been invited to join the stakeholder reference group to advise his Department on the national audit of dementia services. [12404]

Mr Burstow: The Department is in the process of developing the detail of the scope of the audit following an initial meeting of the stakeholders' reference group on 6 July. The results of the audit are expected by October 2010.

This Antipsychotic Working Group met for the first time on 6 July and membership of this group is shown in the following list.

Antipsychotic Working Group

Royal College of General Practitioners

Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Royal College of Physicians

Wylde Consortium, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Four Seasons Health Care Ltd.

Alzheimer's Society

Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber

Care Quality Commission

Alzheimer's Research Trust

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust

Centre for Mental Health

Oxleas NHS Trust

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of anti-psychotic medication there were for people with dementia *(a)* in each primary care trust area and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years. [12400]

Mr Burstow: Information on the number of patients prescribed a medicine and the condition for which that medicine is prescribed is not collected centrally.

Information is collected on the number of prescription items for anti-psychotic drugs within sections 4.2.1 "Antipsychotic drugs" and 4.2.2 "Antipsychotic depot injections" of the British National Formulary, written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community, in England with the net ingredient cost.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on work undertaken by carers for people with dementia in the latest period for which figures are available. [12402]

Mr Burstow: The Department does not keep data on national health service spending on carers for people with dementia.

In addition, the Department does not ring fence funding for dementia services to primary care trusts (PCTs). The national audit of dementia services will include an analysis of local spending on services for people with dementia.

The revised NHS operating framework published in June 2010 makes clear that PCTs and their partners should publish how they are implementing the national dementia strategy to increase local accountability for prioritisation.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with dementia in each region in each of the last five years. [12403]

Mr Burstow: The quality and outcomes framework gives the numbers of patients on the dementia disease register for the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09. Figures for 2009-10 will be published in autumn this year. The figures by strategic health authority (SHA) are shown in the following table. Figures are not the number of newly diagnosed dementia patients but the number who are on the register at the end of each year.

	SHA	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Q33	East Midlands SHA	18,032	18,939	20,089
Q35	East of England SHA	22,628	23,573	25,315
Q36	London SHA	23,023	23,871	24,859
Q30	North East SHA	12,128	12,420	13,198
Q31	North West SHA	31,746	32,621	34,057
Q38	South Central SHA	17,108	17,744	18,840
Q37	South East Coast SHA	19,651	20,350	21,442
Q39	South West SHA	23,772	24,401	25,920
Q34	West Midlands SHA	21,988	22,728	23,866
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	22,718	23,599	24,844

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to reduce the level of use of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia. [12405]

Mr Burstow: The National Clinical Director for dementia is leading the work to implement the recommendations made by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report into the use of anti-psychotic medicines, which was published in November 2009. The Department is working with the

NHS Information Centre to develop an audit of the prescribing of anti-psychotics for people with dementia. The audit will be a key mechanism for measuring the reduction in the use of anti-psychotic drugs.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12338]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table provides details of the major land and buildings sold by the Department between April 2005 and March 2010. There have been no sales by non-departmental public bodies or agencies for which the Department has been responsible during this period.

The receipts from these sales are credited to the Department's capital budget and can be used to support further capital spending by the Department, the national health service, agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Property sold	*Sale price (£000)*
2005-06	
Land at Princess Royal, Telford	45
St Margaret's, Walsall	13,250
St Crispin's Social Club, Northampton	20
Land at Towers Hospital, Leicester	1,816
1/3 Nightingale Close, Mulbarton	230
High Royd's, Menston	27,230
Killingbeck, Leeds	18,770
Land at Neville Drive, Sedgefield	3,000
30 Windermere Gardens, Gateshead	75
St Oswald's Hospice, Newcastle	900
New Lodge, Whittingham	94
Middleton Hospital, Ilkley	275
10 Mayroyd Avenue, Tolworth	189
47 Gainsborough Road, Epsom	122
Conolly House, Napsbury	1,245
Colvend, Napsbury	495
121 Cranleigh Mead, Cranleigh	117
19 Netherne Lane, Coulsdon	144
24 Park Road, Maidstone	118
40 Park Road, Maidstone	115
46 Park Road, Maidstone	128
2 Brambletye Park Road, Redhill	164
Land at Joyce Green, Dartford	1,225
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Banstead	5,900
Silverlands, Chertsey	3,700
Bungalow, Woodplace Lane, Coulsdon	189
Glenside, Bristol	5,250
Part Severalls Hospital Site, Colchester	[1]280,000
Turner Village, Colchester	[1]—
Land at St Mary's Axminster	[1]—
Cashes Green Hospital, Stroud	[1]—
St Leonards, Ringwood	[1]—
Tiverton District Hospital, Tiverton	[1]—
Belmont Hospital, Tiverton	[1]—
Cottages 1 to 5, Herrison	[1]—
Lower Farm Buildings, Herrison	[1]—
Sewer Field, Herrison Hanham Hall, Bristol	[1]—
Part Countess of Chester, Chester	[1]—
Whittingham, Preston	[1]—
Winwick Farm, Warrington	[1]—
Winwick Social Club, Warrington	[1]—
Land at Lancaster Moor, Lancaster	[1]—
Homelands Hospital, Crook	[1]—
Killingworth Stores, Killingworth	[1]—
Maiden Law Hospital, Durham	[1]—
Part St Georges Hospital, Morpeth	[1]—
Land at Aycliffe Hospital, Newton Aycliffe	[1]—
Birney Hill Farm, Ponteland	[1]—
Stannington Children's Hospital, Stannington	[1]—
Ashington General Hospital, Ashington	[1]—
Part Shotley Bridge Hospital, Consett	[1]—
Tindale Crescent, Bishop Auckland	[1]—
Hull Maternity Hospital, Hull	[1]—
Land at Seacroft Hospital, Leeds	[1]—
Part Wharfdale Hospital, Otley	[1]—
Land at Springfield, Grimsby	[1]—
Scartho Hall, Grimsby	[1]—
Scartho Hall—site opposite, Grimsby	[1]—
Land at Norton Aerodrome, Sheffield	[1]—
Lord Mayor Treloar, Alton	[1]—
Park Prewett, Basingstoke	[1]—
St Augustines, Chartham	[1]—
Mabledon, Dartford	[1]—
Alpha House, Droxford	[1]—
Part St Ebbas, Epsom	[1]—
Horton Farm, Epsom	[1]—
Retail Centre site, Horton, Epsom	[1]—
Part West Park Hospital, Epsom	[1]—
Part Coldeast Hospital, Fareham	[1]—
Part Knowle Hospital, Wickham	[1]—
Land at St Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath	[1]—
Leybourne Grange, Maidstone	[1]—
Linton Hospital, Maidstone	[1]—
Part Milford Hospital, Milford	[1]—
Land at Royal Earlswood, Redhill	[1]—
Land at Hill House, Rye	[1]—
Sheppey Hospital, Sheppey	[1]—
Part Southlands Hospital, Shoreham	[1]—
Hazel Farm, Southampton	[1]—
Land at St Johns Hospital, Stone	[1]—
Part Tatchbury Hospital, Calmore	[1]—
Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey	[1]—
Land at Celsea Place, Cholsey	[1]—
Penny Lodge, Newport Pagnell	[1]—
Stretton Hall Farmland, Oadby	[1]—
Ashover House, Lincoln	[1]—
Carey House, Skegness	[1]—
Derby City Chest Clinic, Derby	[1]—
Barnsley Hall Land, Bromsgrove	[1]—
Land at the Limes, Himley	[1]—
Part Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster	[1]—
Ledbury Cottage Hospital, Ledbury	[1]—

Property sold	*Sale price (£000)*
Smallwood, Redditch	[1]—
Royal Shrewsbury—South	[1]—
Land at Chemsley, Solihull	[1]—
Land at Middlefield, Knowle	[1]—
Land at Bucknall, Bucknall	[1]—
2006-07	
11 Edith Road, London	247
Bridge Wharf, London	36
48 Park Road, Maidstone	170
31 Pathfields, Shere	210
40 Princes Road, Redhill	162
42 Princes Road, Redhill	150
9 Princes Road, Redhill	200
Orchard Field, Virginia Water	4,420
42 Redan Road, Aldershot	142
44 Redan Road, Aldershot	149
Hollywood Lodge, Epsom	1,209
Eastwood Park, Falfield	3,010
9 Highbury Villas, Bristol	244
Oakleigh, Plymouth	225
Okehampton Castle Hospital, Okehampton	450
57 Park Road, Loughborough	325
Land at Sedgefield	26
Fieldside, Workington	70
Land at St Catherine's, Doncaster	625
Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton	28
Broseley Hospital, Broseley	18
Wellington Cottage Hospital, Telford	245
Gordon Barracks, Rochester	3,850
Wells Cottages, Coulsdon	750
Stone House Hospital, Dartford	[1]40,000
St Margaret's Hospital, Epping	[1]—
Runwell Hospital, Wickford	[1]—
Part Prudhoe Hospital, Prudhoe	[1]—
Part Manor Kingsway Hospital, Derby	[1]—
Cane Hill Hospital, Coulsdon	[1]—
Part Grimsby General Hospital, Grimsby	[1]—
St Clements Social Club, Ipswich	[1]—
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	[1]—
The Beeches Hospital, Telford	[1]—
2007-08	
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hackney	8,500
337-339 Hackney Road, Hackney	1,430
18 Paddington Green, London	1,210
Eastry Hospital, Eastry	1,700
35 Higher Kingston, Yeovil	135
10 Woodside, Plymouth	335
St Mary's Hospital, Stannington	3,875
103 Oakwood Drive, Ulverston	129
Sedgefield Hospital, Sedgefield	3,268
Agricultural land, Winterton	105
Willowburn, Maiden Law Hospital, Lanchester	185
112 Northbourne Road, Jarrow	83
140 Hedworth Lane, Jarrow	140
27 Willow Grange, Jarrow	131
Land at South Elmsall, Wakefield	287
18 Battlefield Lane, Holbeach	116
Holbeach Hospital, Holbeach	325
Land at Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey	72
Cherry Knowle Hospital, Sunderland	[2]—
Part Towers Hospital, Leicester	[2]—
2008-09	
10 houses in Surrey	2,200
30 Paul Road, Bodmin	97
Land at Cronehills, West Bromwich	47
Laverneo, Grindon	250
Horton House, Epsom	675
Land at St George's, Romford	77
Morton Banks, Riddlesdon	30
Dog Kennel Wood, Maidstone	40
Land at Drakes Drive, St Alban's	31
Land at The Hawthorns, Swindon	20
2009-10	
High Road, Tottenham	255
Land at Napsbury	425
Land at Daisy Bank Cottages, Lancaster	43
Blackbrook House, Fareham	750
Land at Cherry Knowle, Sunderland	12
Woodside Carpark, Plymouth	190
Lakeview Close, Walsall	1,000
10 Palmer Crescent, Ottershaw	160
White Hart, Harrogate	2,240
Land at Shenleybury Cottages, St Albans	71
Chestnut Court, Redhill	425
Land at Herrison, Dorchester	12
Land at Harwich Hospital, Harwich	586
Land at South Cottages, St Albans	50

[1] Part of a portfolio sale to English Partnerships
[2] Part of portfolio transfer to English Partnerships

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [13010]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on office space per employee has only been collected since 2004 as part of a pan-government annual property benchmarking exercise. Property benchmarking data for the Department only include data for Richmond House, Wellington House, Skipton House, New Kings Beam House and Quarry House. Data for 2009-10 are not yet available as the benchmarking exercise is still underway. Office space per employee from 2004-05 to 2008-09 is as follows:

	Square metres per employee
2004-05	16.90
2005-06	17.00
2006-07	17.70
2007-08	18.80
2008-09	16.10

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7340]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's expenditure on information and communication technology (ICT) between 2006-07 and 2009-10 is set out in the following table. Expenditure on ICT between 1997-98 and 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

ICT	*Totals (£000)*
2006-07[1]	81,455
2007-08[1]	88,036
2008-09	54,062
2009-10	48,702

[1] Includes accommodation and building services spend.

The Department's expenditure incurred in ensuring delivery of the information technology systems under the national programme for information technology, and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority, in the years for which information is available, is shown in the following table.

ICT	*Total (£ million)*
2004-05	620.0
2005-06	968.0
2006-07	1,117.0
2007-08	1,193.0
2008-09	1,063.5
2009-10	1,100.0

Note:

All sums are actual expenditure for the year in question, compiled using the accruals accounting convention, and exclude capital charges.

The Department's non-departmental public bodies and agency's expenditure on ICT is not held centrally. Information for period 2001-02 to 2009-10 where central contracts have been used, is set out in the following table. Details of expenditure on ICT prior to 2001 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

									£000
ICT	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	96	75
General Social Care Council	933	141	182	418	246	1,107	778	1,624	1,453
Monitor	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6	19	22	22	26	26
Appointments Commission	[1]—	111	137	117	118	128	111	220	711
Alcohol Education and Research Council	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Care Quality Commission	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	32,007
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Health Protection Agency	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6,420	6,794	8,576	11,158	10,331
Human Tissue Authority	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	12,677	16,500	14,911	12,386	14,106	12,098

[1] Cells are blank if the arms length body was not in existence or where the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

[2] Denotes the Agency.

Notes:

1. Figures may have come from various sources and so may not exactly match with accrual accounts.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may include revenue and capital.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each English region was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12459]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not routinely offer lease cars to members of staff. However, NHS Connecting for Health, a programme managed by the Department's Director General and Chief Information Officer, does offer lease cars to some members of staff.

Also, a small number of employees who transferred into the core Department, who were previously employed by the Purchasing and Supplies Agency (PASA), an agency of the Department, had a business need for a lease vehicle. When PASA closed on 31 March 2010, there were 15 employees who continued with their lease agreements. Since the transfer date six individuals have returned their lease car. The Department meets the costs of the ongoing leases.

The following table shows the annual expenditure on the vehicles for NHS Connecting for Health for the last three years, and the total projected cost of the NHS Connecting for Health leases and the former PASA leases in 2010-11.

	Expenditure (£)
2007-08	92,041
2008-09	107,938
2009-10	122,025
2010-11—planned	150,828

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

The Department has nine executive non-departmental bodies and one agency. Only one of the current non-departmental bodies, the Appointments Commission, incurs expenditure on vehicles as shown in the following table.

Appointments Commission

	Expenditure (£000)
2007-08	7
2008-09	7

Appointments Commission

	Expenditure (£000)
2009-10	6
2010-11—planned	6

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000. Excludes mileage costs, lease costs only.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10114]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures are taken from the Department's business management system and are provisional.

		£
Minister	*May 2010*	*June 2010*
Secretary of State for Health (Mr Lansley)	31.31	136.01
Minister of State (Mr Simon Burns)	2.31	37.45
Minister of State (Mr Burstow)	2.54	6.54
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Anne Milton)	0	0
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Earl Howe)	1.54	0

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9900]

Mr Simon Burns: The total amount paid in remuneration to civil servants in the Department for 2009-10 was £116,931,413.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each of the English regions in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12457]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of employer pension contributions incurred for the last three years—and the predicted expenditure for the coming year—by the core Department, each of the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies and its executive agency: the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency are shown in the following table.

The figures shown for the core Department relate to contributions made to the principal civil service pension scheme of which most of the Department's employees are members.

				£000
Title of organisation	*2007-08 costs*	*2008-09 costs*	*2009-10 costs*	*2010-11 planned expenditure*[1]
Core Department of Health	21,789	22,845	23,714	24,254
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	73	102	111	117
General Social Care Council	298	469	489	640
Monitor	1,035	1,373	1,449	1,521
Appointments Commission	147	166	217	[1]230
Alcohol Education and Research Council	4	4	7	8
Care Quality Commission	—	11,133	9,819	10,120
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	660	683	644	645
Health Protection Agency[2]	15,502	17,015	19,603	19,500
Human Tissue Authority	268	288	293	372
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	7,180	7,643	8,019	8,854

[1] Based on plans developed pre Arms Length Body review, now subject to review.
[2] HPA figures are as per the statutory entity at the time. The National Institute for Biological Standards and Control joined the HPA from 2009-10.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years in (i) London and (ii) each region of England. [12460]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's communications directorate commissioned regular tracking of public attitudes towards the national health service in England. As regional public opinion polling is carried out by strategic health authorities, we are unable to provide a breakdown by region.

Departmental expenditure on the tracking of public attitudes contracts 2005-10:

	Tracking of public attitudes (excluding VAT) (£)
2005-06	83,480
2006-07	99,200
2007-08	114,867
2008-09	134,343
2009-10	142,440

Public relations companies have been contracted to support a very wide range of marketing and policy initiatives including major public health behaviour change programmes (such as tobacco control, sexual health, flu immunisation, obesity prevention, hand and respiratory hygiene and drug and alcohol harm reduction programmes) in addition to communicating to the NHS work force and supporting clinical campaigns. The work commissioned through public relations companies includes a wide range of marketing activity including: advertorials, newsletter production, conference and event management, research, creation of content and photography and stakeholder relations activity.

Figures broken down by regions are not available as most contracts extend over several regions and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental expenditure on public relations consultancies 2005-10:

£

	Direct expenditure from Department of Health (excluding VAT)	*Expenditure through Central Office of Information (excluding VAT)*
2005-06	5,080,773	71,756
2006-07	5,017,342	65,580
2007-08	6,438,491	25,582
2008-09	5,397,391	4,200,876
2009-10	2,981,873	3,720,838

The above expenditure includes additional expenditure made directly by NHS Connecting for Health (part of the Department of Health), but excludes any expenditure by arm's length bodies and non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each region of England in each of the last five years. [12339]

Mr Simon Burns: The information on the amount spent in rent by the Department for properties in total, each region and London in the past five years is shown in the following table.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total Rent	14,337,000	14,127,250	14,845,750	15, 153,250	18,359,000
Regions					
Eastern	89,750	60,000	66,250	66,250	266,500
East Midlands	18,500	0	0	0	294,000
North East	44,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	163,000
North West	101,000	92,000	65,000	65,000	326,000
South East	273,500	273,250	256,500	256,500	591,000
South West	156,500	152,000	152,000	152,000	493,000
West Midlands	424,000	160,500	190,500	190,500	293,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,516,000	5,844,000	5,388,000	6,134,000	6,478,000
London	7,713,750	7,510,500	8,192,500	8,254,000	9,454,500

All properties are in England. The amounts listed do not include VAT or serviced accommodation. Serviced accommodation costs cover all services in a building and it is not possible to break these costs down.

The figures above include rental costs of buildings, which are deemed surplus. Surplus property was returned to the Department for disposal or sublet until the end of the lease and is managed as part of the Department's retained estate. The main reason for the increase in rent paid for 2009-10 was the rationalisation in the arms length body sector estate and a number of properties becoming surplus and being managed as part of the Department's retained estate. The vacant properties are being actively marketed. The total costs for the Department's retained estate from 2005-06 to 2009-10 are as follows:.

£

2005-06	1,450,000
2006-07	1,312,250
2007-08	1,133,250
2008-09	1,238,250
2009-10	4,072,500

Between 2005-06 and 2008-09, approximately £700,000 per annum was received from sub-lettings from surplus property and this increased to approximately £965,000 in 2009-10.

Diseases: Health Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve health care for people with rare diseases in response to the recommendations of the chief medical officer's annual report for 2009. [11629]

Mr Simon Burns: The chief medical officer (CMO) produces an annual report on the state of public health, in which the CMO provides a wide range of policy recommendations on public health to the Government. His report for 2009, published in March 2010, included a section which addressed treatments for rare diseases.

The White Paper "Equity and Excellence—Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, includes our future intentions for the commissioning of specialised services. It proposes that highly specialised services which include the treatment of some rare diseases would in the future be commissioned by the National

Commissioning Board. The subsequent consultation and engagement paper "Liberating the NHS: commissioning for patients", published on 22 July 2010, is seeking views on a number of questions regarding the proposals on the future arrangement of national and regional specialised services.

Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

Doctors: Manpower

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors were employed in the NHS in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* 1997. [12674]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest available National Health Service Workforce Census details the number of doctors employed in the NHS as at 30 September 2009. The following table shows the total number of doctors employed by the NHS in September 2009 and September 1997.

Number (headcount)

	1997	*2009*
All doctors[1,2]	89,619	140,426
Of which:		—
Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) doctors[1]	60,230	100,628
General practitioners (GPs)[2]	29,339	39,798

[1] Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[2] Retainers were first collected in 1999 and have been excluded from the 2009 figure for comparability.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Notes:

1. HCHS doctors as at 30 September each year.
2. GP data as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2009.

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

There is more recent monthly data available for April 2010. It has not been included in the reply, as this would exclude some significant groups such as GPs. The monthly data also only includes staff on the Electronic Staff Record and therefore excludes primary care and bank staff.

Drugs and Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of NHS rehabilitation services for those with *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol addiction. [11759]

Anne Milton: The Public Health White Paper, due for publication later this year will set out the role of the Public Health Service in the rehabilitation of people dependent on drugs and/or alcohol.

Drugs: Prisons

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners are in receipt of prescriptions for methadone; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* prescribing prisoners methadone and *(b)* abstinence programmes in reducing the level of drug addiction in prison. [12409]

Mr Burstow: In 2009-10, a total of 60,067 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these, 36,323 received detoxification and 23,744 received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

The Institute of Psychiatry and the National Centre for Social Research are carrying out an independent evaluation of drug treatment and the Integrated Drug Treatment System in prisons, including maintenance prescribing and detoxification programmes. The evaluation began in 2008 and is timetabled to be completed in 2011.

Epilepsy: Specialist Nurses

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent epilepsy specialist nurses worked in the NHS *(a)* in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of the number of such nurses there will be in 2012; and if he will make a statement; [12055]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* acute and *(b)* primary care trusts employ at least one epilepsy specialist nurse. [12056]

Mr Simon Burns: Epilepsy specialist nurses are not separately identified within the NHS Workforce Census and therefore this information is not collected centrally.

There were 322,425 full-time equivalent national health service hospital and community health services nurses, midwifery and health visiting staff based on the September 2009 Workforce Census.

Foetal Tissue

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedure for obtaining consent for the use of foetal tissue is in place; which organisation is responsible for overseeing the proper implementation of the consent procedure; how many complaints have been brought regarding the consent procedure in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [10404]

Anne Milton: The storage and use of foetal tissue for certain purposes including research is, like all other tissue from the living, subject to the requirement for "appropriate consent" in accordance with the Human Tissue Act 2004, i.e. it requires the consent of the woman from whom it was taken.

The Human Tissue Authority has a general function under the Act to superintend compliance with the consent requirements of the Act and codes of practice, one of which covers the subject of consent. There is not a specific procedure for complaints about the consent process and any complaint about consent would be dealt with in accordance with the general complaints procedures of the organisation concerned. Information on any complaints that may have been made is not collected centrally.

Food Standards Agency

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of each public awareness campaign undertaken by the Food Standards Agency in the last 12 months. [11798]

Anne Milton: Food Standards Agency has run the following public awareness campaigns in the last 12 months:

Date	*Campaign*	*Cost (£)*
October 2009	Salt Awareness campaign	3,466,808.
December 2009	Christmas Food Hygiene Campaign	554,188
January 2010	Saturated Fat Campaign	1,606,358
January 2010	Business Campaign	903,412
February 2010	Regional Food Hygiene Campaign	258,419
Total		6,789,185

These figures include all campaign costs such as advertising, production, research, marketing and public relations and online work.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Food Standards Agency took to measure the effectiveness of its recent campaign to encourage people to eat less salt. [11810]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency has monitored the effectiveness of its consumer campaigns, and the reductions in average population daily salt intakes as a result of the overall salt reduction programme.

Evaluation of the four-phase campaign suggests that the number of consumers claiming to make a special effort to cut down the amount of salt in their diet has increased by one-quarter. Of those who are doing so by checking the label, the increase has been 200%; there has been a 1,000% increase in awareness of the six grams (g) a day message; and there has been a 72% increase in the number of all adults looking at the label to find out the salt content.

The results of the most recent urinary analysis survey, which took place in 2008, showed a significant fall in the average population daily salt intake of 0.9g (from 9.5g in 2001 to 8.6g).

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has received from Burson-Marsteller on the recent decisions by his Department to change the remit of the Food Standards Agency; [12213]

(2) what meetings he has had with Burson-Marsteller to discuss the labelling of food and with reference to food standards. [12214]

Anne Milton: We have not received any representations or had any meetings with Burson-Marsteller on changing the remit of the Food Standards Agency or on food labelling.

Food Standards Agency: Public Consultation

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projects on public attitudes to pesticides the Food Standards Agency has funded since 1997; what the *(a)* topic, *(b)* start date, *(c)* cost and *(d)* project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed. [10866]

Anne Milton: The following research has been commissioned in relation specifically to public attitudes to pesticides. All projects were completed and the final reports can be found at the web links provided:

Consumer Concern Over the Use of Pesticides to Grow Food (Define Solutions)—commissioned via the Central Office of Information (COI) (COI ref: 260602). Duration of the project was January 2004 to March 2004; the total cost was £29,370.

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/pestresconsumeresearch.pdf

Consumer Information Needs Regarding Pesticides (Forum Qualitative)—commissioned via COI (COI ref: 269197). Duration of the project was December 2005 to August 2006; the total cost was £53,550.

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/consumerpesticideexec.pdf

Consultancy Services to Assist in the Preparation of a Strategy to Minimise Pesticide Residues in Food (ADAS Consulting). Project code PAU 154; Duration of the project was March 2003 to August 2003; the total cost was £63,856.

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/peststakeholdreport.pdf

Food: Allergies

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the level of funding for research into the causes and treatments of food allergies following the restructuring of the Food Standards Agency. [12085]

Anne Milton: Responsibility for policy matters on food allergy and food intolerance remains with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as this is a food safety matter.

There has been no indication that the FSA budget will be unaffected by the Government's October spending review. The FSA is committed to ensuring that its policies are based on sound science and evidence, and is assessing future priorities, including the research programmes. The FSA is considering different models for funding research and is already exploring potential collaborative co-funding resources to help support its research objectives.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that people with food allergies can access ingredients information when buying food and eating out after the transfer of responsibility for food labelling and provision of information in restaurants and takeaways to his Department. [12086]

Anne Milton: The responsibility for food allergy and food intolerance, including labelling and the provision of allergen information, is remaining in the Food Standards Agency (FSA), as this is a food safety matter. There will not be any change in the current legal provisions for food allergen labelling following the transfer of responsibility for general food labelling (ie labelling that is not safety or nutrition labelling) to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

There will be close co-operation between DEFRA the FSA and the Department to support ongoing negotiations on the proposed Food Information Regulation. This regulation will incorporate existing provisions on the labelling of allergenic ingredients in pre-packed foods and is expected to introduce new requirements to provide allergen information for foods sold unpackaged, including in catering.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve guidance on weaning to parents of young babies in order to prevent food allergies from developing; and if he will make a statement. [12087]

Anne Milton: Research is ongoing as there is considerable scientific uncertainty about introducing allergenic foods in the infant diet and whether this reduces the risk of developing a food allergy in later childhood.

The Department's advice is that infants should be breastfed exclusively for around the first six months, as breast milk provides all the nutrients a baby needs. Thereafter, parents can introduce more solid foods alongside breastfeeding for the first year.

Parents should avoid giving children under six months allergenic foods, such as peanuts, nuts, seeds, fish, shellfish, wheat—and other cereals that contain gluten (for example, rye, oats, barley). Information on breastfeeding, weaning, and foods to avoid during weaning is available at:

http://www.eatwell.gov.uk/agesandstages/baby/

General Practitioners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members he expects each GP consortium to have under the proposals in his Department's White Paper. [11238]

Mr Simon Burns: We do not wish to be unduly prescriptive about the size of general practitioner commissioning consortiums. There have been widespread variations in the size and population coverage of primary care trusts (PCTs), which are currently responsible for commissioning national health service healthcare services, and there is no evidence to suggest a single 'right' size. The NHS Commissioning Board will, however, need to satisfy itself that consortiums are of sufficient size to manage financial risk effectively. The consultation document on new NHS commissioning arrangements "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients", published on 22 July, seeks views on whether there should be a minimum or maximum population size for GP commissioning consortiums. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* research and *(b)* other evidence on the capacity of GPs to commission services was used in preparation of his Department's recent White Paper. [12119]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July 2010, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices. "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients", published on 22 July, provides further details on these proposals. There is a body of evidence both from this country and internationally about the importance of involving clinicians in commissioning decisions.

An analytical strategy was published alongside the White Paper. This set out that, between now and the legislation that will give effect to the proposals, the Department will be developing the analytical framework to give a picture of the likely effects of the White Paper.

The Department will publish an impact assessment covering the proposals for GP commissioning alongside or shortly after its response to the consultation process. The Department will use the consultation period to inform the development of the impact assessments to ensure that a wide ranging and robust analysis is undertaken.

General Practitioners: Drugs

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortiums will be entitled to refuse to offer patients clinically appropriate drugs or treatments which have been approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence under the proposals in the NHS White Paper. [12024]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published on 12 July 2010, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortiums of general practitioner practices.

We will be considering this issue as we develop the detail of the new commissioning arrangements but we remain committed to ensuring that patients can access drugs and treatments recommended in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence technology appraisals.

General Practitioners: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are per 100,000 of population in the London boroughs of *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Greenwich, *(c)* Bromley and *(d)* Lewisham. [11554]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the latest data available as at September 2009.

Primary care trusts (PCTs)	*NHS Plan general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 population*
Bexley Care Trust	53.7
Greenwich PCT	66.4
Bromley PCT	71.0
Lewisham PCT	76.1

Note:

NHS Plan GPs per 100,000 population is calculated using mid-year 2006 resident population data with the permission of the Office for National Statistics.

Source: NHS Factsheets—Department of Health Care and Health Information Portfolio (CHIP) briefing system.

General Practitioners: Patients

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure the maintenance of quality of patient care through the planned transition to GP commissioning. [12019]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's White Paper "Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July, set out proposals for putting local consortiums of general medical practitioners in charge of commissioning services to best meet the needs of local people, supported by an independent national health service commissioning board.

We have now launched a consultation and engagement process on how we should implement these proposals. "Liberating the NHS: commissioning for patients" published on 22 July, which provides more detail on proposed arrangements and seeks views. Both publications have already been placed in the Library.

NHS chief executive Sir David Nicholson has also written to the chief executive community setting out plans for managing the transition to the new arrangements. His letter set out the initial steps that are being taken at a national level to ensure the NHS continues to deliver for today while designing a new system for tomorrow. It provides a framework within which strategic health authorities can lead this process regionally, and sets out some initial actions that commissioners and providers need to take as part of state of readiness for 2012. It is available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_117405

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of residents of St Albans constituency who *(a)* are registered with a GP and *(b)* have access to an NHS dentist. [12115]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows general practitioner (GP) registered patients for the St Albans constituency, as at September 2009.

Primary care trust (PCT)	*GP registered patients*
Hertfordshire PCT	1,167,370
of which:	
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	581,750
West Hertfordshire PCT	585,620

Notes:

1. The GP Census collection contains data by trust level only. St Albans Constituency is contained within and served by Hertfordshire PCT. Hertfordshire PCT was created in April 2010 through the merging of two PCTs. These two PCTs, East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT, were in existence at the time of the census and so data has been shown for each of these, with a cumulative total to reflect the number of registered patients in Hertfordshire PCT.

2. Data is for the number of GP patient registrations shown on the annual GP Census collection as at 30 September 2009. However, this is not resident population data and in fact may be higher than resident population in the given areas due to factors such as multiple registrations and GP systems not being fully up-to-date. Owing to this, proportions of numbers registered (and not registered) cannot be accurately calculated by dividing the numbers presented here by resident population statistics.

3. The numbers shown here represent GP patient registrations to national health service GPs only.

4. *Data Quality:*

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care.

With regard to dental access, under the new dental contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24 month period.

Information on the number and proportion of patients seen in the previous 24 months, in England, is available in Table D1 and D2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 3: 31 December 2009 report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 31 December 2009 and is provided by PCT and by strategic health authority.

This report, published on 20 May 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910q3

We have included in our Coalition programme a commitment to the introduction of a new dentistry contract that will focus on achieving good dental health and increasing access to the NHS dentistry.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices offered extended opening hours for at least one evening or weekend session a week in May 2010. [12971]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Bill

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to present the health Bill to Parliament. [12118]

Mr Simon Burns: As announced in the parliamentary debates on the Queen's Speech, the Government will seek to introduce a health Bill in the autumn.

Health Centres: Christchurch

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 112W, on health centres: Christchurch, what progress he has made in the discussions to achieve an early disposal of his Department's interest in the former health centre at Saxon Square, Christchurch. [12732]

Mr Simon Burns: Constructive discussions continue with the landlord in order to achieve an early disposal of the Department's interest in the property.

Health Professions Council

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has taken note of the comments on the Health Professions Council on the Government's Your Freedom website; and if he will make a statement; [12239]

(2) whether he plans to review the regulatory framework of the Health Professions Council; and if he will make a statement; [12240]

(3) whether he plans to issue guidance to the Health Professions Council on the speed with which professional allegations are handled; [12241]

(4) what plans he has for the future of the Health Professions Council; and if he will make a statement. [12250]

Anne Milton: The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, which is responsible for the scrutiny and quality assurance of the nine health care professions regulators in the United Kingdom, recently published its annual performance review. In respect of the Health Professions Council (HPC) it commented that the HPC

> "is a well organised, efficient and cost-effective regulator. This has helped it maintain a good performance during a year which saw it assume responsibility for two further professions..."

As we recently announced in the review of the Department's arms length bodies we intend to transfer the regulatory function of the General Social Care Council in respect of social workers to the HPC.

The Health Professions Council is an independent statutory organisation and as such neither the Government, nor the Department, has any powers to issue guidance or interfere in its activities.

The Government are currently considering their overall approach to the regulation of health and social care workers, including the legislative framework. No firm decisions have been made. We will of course take note of any comments we receive including comments from the Government's Your Freedom website.

Health Professions: Finance

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's expenditure on health staffing costs related to *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors, *(c)* all clinical staff, *(d)* all non-clinical staff and *(e)* managers in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [12022]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table indicates our estimates of the proportion of the total pay bill allocated to each of the requested staff groups in 2008-09, which is the latest year for which figures are available.

	Proportion of 2008-09 pay bill (percentage)
Qualified nurses	31
Doctors	23
All clinical staff	80
All non-clinical staff	19
Managers	6

Notes:

1. It is not possible to precisely split pay bill between clinical and non-clinical categories. The 'clinical staff' proportion will be an over-estimate in the above analysis. This is because the financial data are collectively reported for unqualified nurses, healthcare assistants and support workers, and the cost of this group has been treated as a 'clinical' cost. In addition, the total cost of ambulance staff is reported with no indication of the clinical and non-clinical cost elements, and has likewise been treated as 'clinical staff'. As a result, the non-clinical costs will be under-estimated.
2. Around 0.4% of pay costs are for non-medical staff with an unknown classification.
3. The pay bill includes all employees of NHS trusts, primary care trusts (PCTs), strategic health authorities and foundation trusts in England. It excludes agency staff, contractors' employees, general practitioners (GPs) and other GP practice staff.
4. Foundation trusts do not submit a breakdown of their pay bill by staff group. This has been estimated.

Source:

2008-09 Trust, PCT and SHA Financial Returns and Foundation Trust Annual Reports.

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost to the NHS of employing each *(a)* nurse and *(b)* doctor additional to the present complement. [12023]

Mr Simon Burns: The average cost of employing:

a qualified nurse is estimated at £40,100 per full-time equivalent, and

a doctor is estimated at £98,700 per full-time equivalent.

These estimates have been derived by taking the average earnings per full-time equivalent from the Quarterly Earnings Survey for January-March 2010, published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care, and estimating the additional employer costs of national insurance and pension contributions.

Health Professions: Manpower

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* clinical staff, *(d)* non-clinical staff and *(e)* managers the NHS in England employs. [12027]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest annual national health service work force census shows that at 30 September 2009 there were 140,897 doctors, 417,164 qualified nurses, 725,579 professionally qualified clinical staff, 706,417 non-clinical staff, the majority of whom are support to clinical staff, and 44,661 managers and senior managers working in the NHS in England.

More recent monthly data are available but these exclude some significant groups such as general practitioners, practice nurses and bank staff.

The census numbers are shown in the following table:

NHS Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) and General Practice work force as at 30 September, England—2009

	Headcount
Total staff	1,431,996
Professionally qualified clinical staff	725,579
All doctors	140,897
HCHS doctors	100,628
General practitioners total	40,269
Total qualified nursing staff	417,164
Non clinical staff	706,417
Manager and senior manager	44,661

Notes:

1. "Professionally qualified clinical staff" includes all doctors, qualified nursing staff, qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff and qualified ambulance staff.
2. "Non clinical staff" includes support to clinical staff, infrastructure support staff, other practice staff and other non-medical staff with unknown classifications.
3. In this instance monthly data have not been provided as they exclude significant groups that have been requested (e.g. primary care).

Monthly data:

As from 21 July 2010 The Information Centre has published experimental, provisional monthly NHS work force data based on staff on the electronic staff record (ESR). Note that these do not include primary care staff (e.g. GPs and their staff) or bank staff however they do include locum doctors (not included in the annual work force census). This information is available from September 2009 onwards at the following website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/provisionalmonthlyhchsworkforce

Health Services: Finance

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortiums will be entitled to take any unspent part of their *(a)* commissioning budget and *(b)* management allowance as profit under the proposals in the NHS White Paper. [12037]

Mr Simon Burns: Within commissioning budgets, general practitioner (GP) consortiums will receive a maximum management allowance to reflect the management costs associated with commissioning. Consortiums will be free to decide how to use this management allowance to carry out commissioning activities.

With the exception of this management allowance the consortium's commissioning budget must be used exclusively for the commissioning of patient care. It will be distinct from the income that GP practices earn under their primary medical care contract, from which they both meet their practice expenses, and derive their personal income.

Health outcomes for patients will depend both on the quality of services that GP practices provide and on the quality of GP commissioning. We therefore propose, subject to discussion with the British Medical Association and the profession, that a proportion of GP practice income should be linked to the outcomes that practices achieve collaboratively through commissioning consortiums, and the effectiveness with which they manage national health service financial resources.

'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients', published on 22 July, sets out further information on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning, providing the basis for fuller engagement with primary care professionals and the public.

Health Services: Greater London

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the implementation of the Southeast London Healthcare Trust 'A Picture of Health' programme to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [12608]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service. The Secretary of State for Health has outlined four tests that decisions on NHS service changes must meet. Change must improve patient outcomes; consider patient choice; have support from general practitioner commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence. The NHS in South East London will need to make sure any plans for change have local support and meet these tests.

Health Services: Manpower

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people each strategic health authority employed on the most recent date for which figures are available; [12015]

(2) how many people each primary care trust employed on the most recent date for which figures are available. [12016]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest Monthly Workforce Statistics shows the number of people employed by each strategic health authority and primary care trust in England in April 2010.

The numbers are shown in the table which has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Prisoners

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for delivering *(a)* health and *(b)* mental health services in prisons (i) during and (ii) after the implementation of the changes in commissioning services proposed in his Department's White Paper. [11834]

Mr Burstow: Primary care trusts are responsible for delivering healthcare services in prisons during the White Paper consultation period and until the health Bill is passed. Once this is enacted, the national health service commissioning board will be responsible for commissioning prison health services and will work with criminal justice agencies and general practitioner consortia to determine the most appropriate arrangements for prison health services.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 786W, on hospitals: admissions, what the 10 most common reasons are for which patients of each healthcare *(a)* provider and *(b)* commissioner were transferred from residential care to hospital care in the latest period for which figures are available. [12423]

Mr Burstow: We are unable to provide the information in the format requested as a breakdown of reasons for admissions from residential care at provider and commissioner level would risk patient confidentiality.

However, the following tables show finished admission episodes by strategic health authority of commissioner where the primary diagnosis (the main reason the patient was admitted to hospital) was one of the top 20 primary diagnoses for patients transferred from residential care to hospital care nationally in 2008-09. This is not a count of patients as a patient may be admitted to hospital more than once within the year.

			Strategic health authority of commissioner (SHA code)				
Primary diagnosis	*Diagnosis code*	*Total*	*North East (Q30)*	*North West (Q31)*	*Yorkshire and Humber (Q32)*	*East Midlands (Q33)*	*West Midlands (Q34)*
All finished admission episodes		20,635	4,089	3,860	3,095	1,223	1,980
Pneumonia organism unspecified	J18	1,226	242	187	297	45	161

			Strategic health authority of commissioner (SHA code)				
Primary diagnosis	*Diagnosis code*	*Total*	*North East (Q30)*	*North West (Q31)*	*Yorkshire and Humber (Q32)*	*East Midlands (Q33)*	*West Midlands (Q34)*
Other disorders of urinary system	N39	957	200	151	149	54	126
Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity	R69	880	153	122	80	72	77
Fracture of femur	S72	809	168	156	147	24	81
Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection	J22	672	95	133	111	35	127
Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	J44	413	83	90	75	11	65
Syncope and collapse	R55	385	119	86	52	17	33
Pain in throat and chest	R07	328	102	68	66	12	23
Heart failure	I50	307	41	49	65	14	42
Senility	R54	307	67	74	57	18	31
Other non-infective gastroenteritis and colitis	K52	276	76	59	31	20	30
Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	J69	266	35	51	84	8	36
Vascular dementia	F01	259	20	78	20	14	22
Other diseases of digestive system	K92	246	51	50	39	11	29
Abnormalities of breathing	R06	239	108	41	18	6	13
Cellulitis	L03	237	49	60	23	17	28
Alzheimer's disease	G30	233	18	56	25	27	31
Schizophrenia	F20	232	*	62	9	20	17
Other symptoms and signs involving cognitive function and awareness	R41	231	84	38	16	17	13
Unspecified dementia	F03	216	32	33	40	14	32

			Strategic health authority of commissioner (SHA code)						
Primary diagnosis	*Diagnosis code*	*Total*	*East of England (Q35)*	*London (Q36)*	*South East Coast (Q37)*	*South Central (Q38)*	*South West (Q39)*	*Scotland/Wales (S/Q99)*	*Not known (Y)*
All finished admission episodes		20,635	842	1,356	1,726	846	1,290	87	241
Pneumonia organism unspecified	J18	1,226	*	34	109	44	76	*	3
Other disorders of urinary system	N39	957	*	39	118	34	59	*	3
Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity	R69	880	34	150	*	23	83	*	68
Fracture of femur	S72	809	33	22	82	47	38	10	1
Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection	J22	672	*	23	63	33	34	*	3
Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	J44	413	*	17	24	17	16	*	0
Syncope and collapse	R55	385	*	*	27	12	17	10	1
Pain in throat and chest	R07	328	7	12	19	9	9	0	1
Heart failure	I50	307	*	8	31	17	24	*	1
Senility	R54	307	7	7	24	*	15	*	0
Other non-infective gastroenteritis and colitis	K52	276	*	12	21	17	*	*	1
Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	J69	266	*	8	18	*	16	0	0
Vascular dementia	F01	259	13	23	14	*	36	*	6
Other diseases of digestive system	K92	246	6	*	19	12	22	*	0
Abnormalities of breathing	R06	239	*	*	20	12	9	6	0
Cellulitis	L03	237	*	7	18	9	18	*	1
Alzheimer's disease	G30	233	*	20	21	*	16	0	3
Schizophrenia	F20	232	12	81	8	8	*	0	7

			Strategic health authority of commissioner (SHA code)						
Primary diagnosis	*Diagnosis code*	*Total*	*East of England (Q35)*	*London (Q36)*	*South East Coast (Q37)*	*South Central (Q38)*	*South West (Q39)*	*Scotland/Wales (S/Q99)*	*Not known (Y)*
Other symptoms and signs involving cognitive function and awareness	R41	231	*	*	25	13	19	*	1
Unspecified dementia	F03	216	6	14	15	15	10	0	5

Notes:
1. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The strategic health authority of commissioner (SHA code) field identifies the strategic health authority (SHA) in which the commissioner is located.
3. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
4. This list of 20 diagnoses is the top 20 primary diagnoses for finished admission episodes where patients were transferred from residential care to hospital nationally in 2008-09.
5. The admission source field contains a code which identifies where the patient was immediately prior to admission. The following codes for admission source were used to classify patients as being transferred from residential care to hospital treatment:
54 = NHS run nursing home, residential care home or group home
65 = Local authority Part 3 residential accommodation: where care is provided (from 1996-97)
69 = Local authority home or care (1989-90 to 1995-96)
85 = Non-NHS (other than Local Authority) run residential care home (from 1996-97)
86 = Non-NHS (other tnan Local Authority) run nursing home (from 1996-97 to 2006-07)

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Buildings

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital building schemes were completed between 1997 and May 2010. [12788]

Mr Simon Burns: There were 119 hospital schemes approved to proceed to construction after May 1997, which were completed and open to patients before 11 May 2010.

Hospitals: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for maintaining *(a)* accident and emergency, *(b)* maternity, *(c)* paediatric and *(d)* trauma departments at hospitals in North London during the implementation of the commissioning of changes proposed in his Departments White Paper. [11835]

Mr Simon Burns: Acute trusts in North London will be responsible for maintaining all these services during the implementation of the commissioning of changes proposed in the Department's White Paper.

In Vitro Fertilisation: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in the London borough of Bexley received NHS funding for IVF and IVI treatment in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many such people received funding for more than one course of treatment. [11177]

Anne Milton: Information is not collected centrally on the number of patients who have received national health service funded fertility treatments in the London borough of Bexley.

Independent Living Fund

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support plans to investigate the role of the Independent Living Fund. [12105]

Mr Burstow: The independent Commission on the Funding of Care and Support has been asked to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system for care and support for all adults in England. However, the long term future of the Independent Living Fund, which operates across the United Kingdom, will be considered and settled as part of the forthcoming spending review.

Malnutrition: Older People

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent older people becoming malnourished in hospital. [11497]

Anne Milton: The High Impact Action (HIA), "Keeping Patients Nourished" was launched last year. This work, which is led by the chief nurses from the 10 strategic health authorities with input from various partner organisations including the Department, identified that keeping patients nourished, especially older people, was a priority area of care upon which nurses and midwives could facilitate progress. Support materials have been made available to help nurses deliver this HIA.

There is also the "Better Hospital Food Programme", which focuses on consistent delivery of high quality food served to patients.

Providers of regulated activities must be registered with the Care Quality Commission and meet the essential levels of safety and quality set out in the registration requirements.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of older people in hospital were malnourished *(a)* on admission and *(b)* at discharge in the latest period for which figures are available. [11498]

Anne Milton: The information is shown in the following table. The top figure shows the total amount of hospital episodes regardless of the condition, and is included to put the malnutrition figures into context.

Table to show count and percentage of admissions[1] and discharges (last episode of care)[2] in hospital where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis[3] of malnutrition[4] for people aged 65 and over in 2008-09

	Total finished admission episodes	*Total in year discharge episodes*
Total episodes for people aged 65 and over	4,718,112	4,775,892
Total episodes for people aged 65 and over with a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition	1,352	1,613
Percentage of total episodes where there was a primary and secondary diagnosis of malnutrition	0.03	0.03

[1] *Finished admission episodes* A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Discharge* A discharge episode is the last episode during a hospital stay (a spell), where the patient is discharged from the hospital or transferred to another hospital.

[3] *Number of episodes in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis* The number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is counted only once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

[4] *ICD10 Clinical Codes* The ICD-10 codes for Malnutrition are: E40.X Kwashiorkor E41.X Nutritional marasmus E42.X Marasmic kwashiorkor E43.X Unspecified severe protein-energy malnutrition E44 Protein energy malnutrition of moderate and mild degree E45.X Retarded development following protein energy malnutrition E46 Unspecified protein energy malnutrition 025 Malnutrition in pregnancy.

Note:

Data quality Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Medical Treatments

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions his Department places on the *(a)* services, *(b)* treatments and *(c)* medications which may be provided to patients through (i) GPs and (ii) other NHS facilities. [12675]

Mr Simon Burns: Under their terms of service, general practitioners (GPs) are allowed to prescribe any product, including any unlicensed product or product not licensed for a particular indication (often known as 'off-label' prescribing), which they consider to be a medicine necessary for the treatment of their patients under the national health service, subject to two provisos. These are, firstly, that the product is not included in schedules 1 or 2 to the NHS (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc) Regulations 2004, otherwise known as the 'Selected List Scheme', and secondly, GPs are prepared to justify any challenges to their prescribing by their primary care trust.

Mental Health Services

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his proposals to incentivise health providers to reduce numbers of emergency re-admissions will apply to re-admissions of mental health patients. [10750]

Mr Burstow: The non-payment for readmissions announced in the 'Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England in 2010-11' (page 12) applies to acute trusts providing physical health care. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The reason it will not apply to mental health trusts is that we are implementing a payment system for mental health services in 2012-13 that covers both in-patient and community care. Under this system, a mental health provider will be paid for a person's care for a time period (for example six months), and that payment will cover the costs of all care given, such as an inpatient stay, contact with a community mental health team and psychological therapies.

There is, therefore, an in-built incentive in this approach to help support people in the community and tackle high readmission rates.

Mortuaries

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the advisory guidelines on the identification and handling of deceased patients are followed in each hospital. [11401]

Anne Milton: "Care and Respect in Death, Good Practice Guidance for NHS Mortuary Staff", was published by the Department in 2006. It sets out eight key principles of good practice, and practical guidance based on them. It provides a basis for, but does not replace, the detailed standard operating procedures which every mortuary must have in place, and which will be adapted to local and individual circumstances. As it is advisory guidance, we would expect the national health service to have regard to it, but we do not monitor compliance. This is consistent with the principle set out in "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" that we should be clear about what the NHS should achieve; we should not prescribe how it should be achieved.

"Care and Respect in Death" has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4137969

Motor Neurone Disease

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop a national strategy for motor neurone disease. [12238]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no such plans. The quality requirements contained in the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions set out standards for care for people with neurological conditions, including motor neurone disease (MND). The NSF covers all aspects of care from assessment, through diagnosis, treatment and support, to end of life decisions and palliative care and makes specific reference to addressing the needs of people with rapidly progressing conditions such as MND, where services need to respond quickly.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has changed its terminology for certain technology appraisal decisions from partially recommended to optimised; and if he will make a statement. [11888]

Mr Simon Burns: The choice of terminology is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body. However, we understand that NICE concluded that the term "optimised" more appropriately reflected the nature of the technology appraisal recommendations in question.

Nerve Damage

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on research on repairing nerve damage in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [12408]

Mr Simon Burns: Estimated expenditure by the Department on research relating to nerve repair is shown in the table.

	£ million
2007-08	2.2
2008-09	5.4
2009-10	5.0

This expenditure was made through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centres established in April 2007. In previous years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research was devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual research projects including some relating to nerve repair are available on the National Research Register Archive at:

http://www.portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchive.aspx

NHS

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with local health trusts on levels of jobs and services in NHS facilities; and if he will make a statement. [12782]

Mr Simon Burns: Local national health service organisations, with their knowledge of the health care needs of their local populations, are best placed to determine the work force and services required to deliver safe patient care within their available resources.

The Government have announced proposals to abolish arm's-length bodies that do not need to exist, streamline the functions of those that do, and transfer functions that can be better delivered by other organisations. On 26 July 2010, the Department published a review on the 18 arm's-length bodies, which can be found on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117691

In addition; a copy of the report entitled "Liberating the NHS: Report of the arm's-length bodies review" has been placed in the Library.

NHS Constitution

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the implementation of proposals in the NHS White Paper requires amendment of the NHS Constitution. [12026]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", emphasises the Government's commitment to uphold the NHS Constitution. The Government are currently consulting on the detailed implementation of the reforms in the White Paper. It may be necessary to amend the NHS Constitution and, if so, the Government will consult on proposals, in line with the requirements of the Health Act 2009.

NHS: Accountancy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the costs that will be incurred in establishing the monitoring arrangements to ensure accountability in the new system for management of health general practices. [11638]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. The precise costs of the transition to the new system, and of running the new organisation, will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail. A number of consultations on how the new organisations should be designed have been published, and once the results of this are known we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

NHS: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken on the cost of commissioning in the NHS; and what the percentage of the NHS budget this represented in each year since 1997. [9775]

Mr Simon Burns: At present, commissioning of national health service services is predominantly carried out by primary care trusts (PCTs). However, PCTs' accounts do not separately identify all the costs associated with their commissioning activities.

The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" sets out the Government's proposals for NHS health care services to be commissioned in future by general practitioner (GP) consortia, supported by an independent NHS Commissioning Board. Our proposals for GP commissioning include setting a maximum allowance for management costs. The Department is committed to ensuring that there is in future a consistent way of classifying and recording management costs, both for GP commissioning consortia and for the NHS Commissioning Board.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made in advance of publishing the Health White Paper of the projected cost to the public purse of the planned changes in NHS fund management; what evidence he obtained on the projected cost; and from what budget he plans to meet these transitional costs. [11637]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence Liberating the NHS' laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. The precise costs of the transition to the new system, and of running the new organisation, will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail. A number of consultations on how the new organisations should be designed have been published, and once the results of this are known we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment. We anticipate that the costs of the transition to the new system will be met from within the Department's departmental expenditure limit.

NHS: Innovation

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future of NHS Innovations; who will be responsible for innovation within the NHS at *(a)* local and *(b)* national level after the implementation of changes proposed in his Department's White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [12781]

Mr Simon Burns: Responsibility for commissioning the services provided by the nine innovation hubs (NHS Innovations) and to promote innovation in the national health service currently rests with strategic health authorities, which will continue until March 2012.

The White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' sets a clear direction with a focus on greater decentralisation and freedoms for NHS trusts, more responsibility for general practitioners, patients and society.

In light of this, the Department and strategic health authorities are considering the requirements to support innovation in the future health and social care landscape.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of funding per head from the NHS for residents in the London boroughs of *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Greenwich, *(c)* Bromley and *(d)* Lewisham in the latest period in which figures are available. [11555]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

The Department of Health currently allocates revenue funding not to boroughs but directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) or, in some areas, care trusts.

The following table sets out revenue allocations per-head made to Bexley Care Trust, Greenwich Teaching PCT, Bromley PCT and Lewisham PCT in 2010-11, the most recent year for which figures are available.

2010-11

	Per-head allocation (£)
Bexley Care Trust	1,576
Bromley PCT	1,593
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,873
Lewisham PCT	1,961
England average	1,612

Source: Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health.

NHS: Reorganisation

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost to the public purse is of planned NHS reorganisation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [12120]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. The precise costs of the transition to the new system will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

A number of consultations on how the new organisations should be designed have been published, and once the results of this are known we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he has allocated to meet the costs of redundancies resulting from the proposed restructuring of healthcare provision. [12121]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. The precise costs of the transition to the new system, including the costs of any redundancies, will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

A number of consultations on how the new organisations should be designed have been published, and once the results of this are known we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment. However, we have made it clear that the running costs of the new system will be lower than the running costs of the current system.

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation his Department has had with service users and carers on the proposals in the White Paper, Liberating the NHS. [12122]

Mr Simon Burns: The manifestos of both parties of the coalition contained clear plans for the national health service. By publishing a strategy in the White Paper, and providing clear leadership and purpose for the NHS, the Government have initiated a full engagement process with all external partners, including service users and carers, on the detail of how best to implement these changes. A number of supporting consultation documents have been published providing further detail and opportunity for engagement.

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional payment local authorities will receive to carry out the new functions described on page 49 of his Department's White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. [12286]

Mr Simon Burns: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" outlines an enhanced role for local authorities in relation to health improvement, joint commissioning and local voice.

Primary care trust responsibilities for local health improvement will transfer to local authorities, who will employ the director of public health, jointly appointed with the new public health service. The Department will create a ring-fenced public health budget and, within this, local directors of public health will be responsible for health improvement funds allocated according to relative population health need. The local ring-fenced public health budget will be based on current identifiable expenditure. The allocation formula for those funds will include a new "health premium" designed to promote action to improve population-wide health and reduce health inequalities. Work is currently under way to determine baseline spending and the details of how local ring-fenced public health budgets will be determined. Further details will be made available in due course.

Local authorities will be given the new function of joining up the commissioning of local national health service services, social care and health improvement. They will also be responsible for funding local HealthWatch organisations, as local consumer champions, building on the current role of local involvement networks (LINks). The Government are currently consulting on whether local HealthWatch should also take on the wider role of providing NHS complaints advocacy services and supporting individuals to exercise choice. The Government are considering what funding needs to be transferred to local authorities to reflect these new functions.

Nutrition

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on machinery of government changes, on which date responsibility for nutrition policy will transfer from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to his Department; and whether current FSA programmes will continue until transfer. [12618]

Anne Milton: The date of transfer of responsibility for nutrition policy for England from the Food Standards Agency to the Department has yet to be determined.

Current nutrition policy programmes will continue in the Food Standards Agency until transfer.

Organs: Donors

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the number of *(a)* UK citizens who went abroad to find human organs for transplant and *(b)* human organs trafficked into the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [10770]

Anne Milton: Statistics on organ transplants which are carried out outside the United Kingdom are not available. The trafficking of human organs is illegal in the UK under the Human Tissue Act 2004 and Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006.

There is no comprehensive source of data on the scale of this illegal activity.

Out of Area Treatment: Wales

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on the operation of cross-border co-operation arrangements delivering health care following his proposed structural changes in England. [11639]

Anne Milton: Since the election, there have been no formal discussions between the Secretary of State for Health and the Welsh Minister for Health and Social Services; a meeting is being planned for later this year.

Pain: Vaccination

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when chymopain injections ceased to be licensed for use in the UK. [12775]

Mr Simon Burns: The fast licence for Chymodiactin Injection, containing chymopapain, was cancelled on 19 November 2003.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* formal complaints have been made and *(b)* legal proceedings issued in respect of complications arising from or following the administration of a chymopain injection in the last five years. [12776]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pulmonary Embolism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information he has received on the number of providers regularly undertaking root cause analysis on all confirmed cases of hospital-acquired pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis in the last 12 months; [12317]

(2) what information he has received on the number of providers regularly undertaking local audits on the percentage of people risk-assessed for venous thromboembolism who receive the appropriate prophylaxis in the last 12 months. [12318]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. From 1 April 2010, the NHS standard contract for acute services requires providers to report to their lead commissioner on local audits of the percentage of patients risk-assessed for venous thromboembolism, who receive the appropriate prophylaxis, and report to their lead commissioner on root cause analysis of all confirmed cases of hospital acquired pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis.

Smoking

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of people who were smokers *(a)* before the introduction of the smoking ban in public places and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. [10315]

Anne Milton: Smokefree legislation came into effect on 1 July 2007. Smoking prevalence in England in 2006 was 22%, and the latest figure is 21% in 2008. Both figures are from the Office for National Statistics report on smoking prevalence is published in 'General Lifestyle Survey 2008: Smoking and drinking among adults, 2008', which has already been placed in the Library.

The primary aim of smokefree legislation is to provide protection from the hazards of exposure to second hand smoke in enclosed work and public places.

The Government are continuing their work on tobacco control, which includes developing and monitoring the evidence base, in the context of a focus on public health.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake a review of all aspects of the ban on smoking in public places before bringing forward proposals to change the scope of that ban. [10860]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to change the scope of the existing law on smokefree public places and workplaces.

Smoking: Cars

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on the prohibition of smoking in cars carrying children; and if he will make a statement. [11865]

Anne Milton: The Department regularly receives correspondence from members of the public, health professionals and academics calling for the complete prohibition of smoking in cars carrying children because of the evidence of the damage to the health that results from exposure of children to second hand smoke in a confined space.

We are considering how best to tackle this issue in the context of our focus on public health. In the meantime we would strongly urge all smokers to stop smoking in the presence of children.

Strokes: Health Services

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government have to ensure that *(a)* community-based stroke physiotherapy services improve and *(b)* progress in post-hospital support for stroke survivors matches that being made in hospital care. [12098]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department recognises that improvements in rehabilitation and long-term care for stroke survivors have been slower than in other parts of the pathway. We have made it, therefore, a key area for improvement in our accelerating stroke improvement work. This aims to deliver further, faster progress in improving stroke services in the current financial year.

Sunbeds: Young People

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for bringing into force each of the powers to protect young people from sunbeds provided for in the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010. [12557]

Anne Milton: The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 (the Act) comes into force on 8 April 2011. The purpose of the Act is to prevent people under the age of 18 from using sunbeds on commercial premises, by making it an offence for sunbed operators to allow people under the age of 18 access to sunbeds on their premises.

We are currently considering the regulation making powers contained in the Act. At this time, no decisions have been taken on these powers and no timetable has been set.

Surgery

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* heart and *(b)* other operations were carried out in the NHS in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 1996-97. [12672]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is in the following table:

A count of finished consultant episodes[1] where there was a main or secondary procedure or intervention[2] of (a) the heart and (b) all procedures and inventions for 2008-09 and 1996-97[3] Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Procedure group	*2008-09*	*1996-97*
Heart Procedures and Interventions	315,348	160,152
All Procedures and Interventions	9,277,407	5,925,915

[1] Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure
The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under-going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures — removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one — counted in a single episode. Operations have been defined using the following codes:
Heart Procedures and Interventions OPCS K01-K78
All Procedures and Interventions 2008-09 OPCS 4.4 - A01-O10, O15-X97, 1996-97 OPCS 4.2 A01 - X59

[3] Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Note:
It should be noted that the count of 'heart procedures and interventions' cannot be subtracted from the count of 'all procedures and interventions' to get a count of 'other non-heart procedures and interventions' as some patients will have a heart and non-heart procedure in the same episode of care.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Swine Flu

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of deaths in England where influenza A (H1N1) was *(a)* the primary cause and *(b)* a contributory factor in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [11620]

(2) whether his Department has received an estimate by the World Health Organisation on the likely number of *(a)* infections and *(b)* deaths resulting from influenza A (H1N1) in England since June 2009. [11621]

Anne Milton: The most recently available estimate for deaths in England related to pandemic influenza A (H1N1) was 363. A confirmed death was defined as related to pandemic H1N1 (2009) influenza if recorded on any part of the death certificate or confirmed on laboratory testing, either before or after death. This number therefore includes deaths where influenza A (H1N1) was the primary cause or a contributory factor.

In December 2009 an analysis of available data from death certificates was performed. The resulting paper was co-authored by England's Chief Medical Officer and published in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) on 10 December 2009. Of the 138 deaths recorded by that date, pandemic A/H1N1 was shown to have led directly to death (part one of the death certificate) in 74 cases, and recorded as contributing to death in 23 cases (part two of the death certificate). Another 30 positive (microbiological) tests for pandemic A/H1N1 had not been recorded on death certificates, while 11 death certificates were still to be issued in cases where a positive test had been found. Re-analysis of death certificates has not been performed since this time and it is therefore not possible to provide any updated estimates. It would be expected that these proportions would remain roughly similar when applied to the larger deaths cohort. The figures and full analysis can be found on the BMJ website at:

www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/339/dec10_1/b5213

The Health Protection Agency have confirmed that the United Kingdom (including England) was not sent any estimates by the World Health Organisation on the likely number of infections and deaths resulting from influenza A (H1N1).

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12991]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has spent the following on its central contracts for taxis since April 2004:

£

	Addison Lee	*Green Cars*	*Computer Cabs*	*Total*
2004-05	423,212.06	—	—	423,212.06
2005-06	414,100.68	—	—	414,100.68
2006-07	306,309.56	—	—	306,309.56
2007-08	336,933.86	—	—	336,933.86
2008-09	291,985.23	[1]22,935.58	—	314,920.81
2009-10	184,328.72	23,043.58	8,471.56	215,843.86

[1] The Green Cars contract commenced in September 2008

The central contracts with Addison Lee and Green Cars terminated on 31 October 2009. The central contract with Computer Cabs began on 1 November 2009 and is currently in use by staff for whom a reasonable adjustment is required.

The figures supplied above, go back six years in accordance with the Retention Schedule, which is informed by the National Archives 'Records Management Retention Scheduling—Employee Personnel Records' (page 6, 'Travel and Subsistence—claims and authorisation'—retention period of six years).

In addition to the central contracts there is a local contract between the Department's Communications Directorate and CityFleet. This began in February 2010 and up to the end of the financial year 2009-10 cost £218.69.

Other taxi fares may be claimed via staff expenses. Since July 2008, when the Department's Business Management System was launched the figures are as follows:

	Total (£)
2008-09	108,424.55
2009-10	153,158.48

The Department's accounting system in operation before July 2008, known as VISTA, did not have a specific sub code for taxis and so a figure cannot be supplied without scrutinizing individual claims at disproportionate cost.

Thromboembolism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce compulsory education on the prevention of venous thromboembolism into the education syllabus for medical undergraduates, nurses and allied health professionals. [12319]

Mr Simon Burns: The General Medical Council is the regulator for all stages of medical training. Venous thromboembolism prevention is currently included as an element of the patient safety aspects of curricula at undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional education programmes, through ongoing work with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, and in discussion with the General Medical Council.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking jointly with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to develop a national drug chart which includes risk assessment for venous thromboembolism and the provision of appropriate prophylaxis. [12320]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has had discussions with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges on the use of prompts for venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment and prophylaxis on hospital drug charts. We are currently considering appropriate support for this intervention and for building similar prompts into hospital electronic prescribing and drug administration systems. The Department will continue to work with medical, nursing and pharmacy leadership bodies to seek their support for successful implementation of VTE prevention strategies.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role the Care Quality Commission will have in monitoring compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence quality standards on venous thromboembolism as part of their national indicators and assessment requirements for 2010-11. [12321]

Mr Simon Burns: None. The indicators to be used by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in any assessment for 2010-11 are as described in the Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010-11 which was published on 21 June 2010. A copy is in the Library. Through its registration function the CQC will also ensure that national health service providers meet essential levels of quality and safety.

The first three National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Quality Standards, covering stroke, dementia and VTE prevention, were launched on 30 June. The Government's recent White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" made clear that quality standards should become a central underpinning element of the whole quality improvement system for the NHS, and a key tool at the disposal of the proposed new NHS Commissioning Board and local commissioners. NICE quality standards will also support the proposed NHS outcomes framework. We launched a full public consultation on proposals for the framework on 19 July 2010, which can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/LiberatingtheNHS/index.htm

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of hospitals achieved the nationally defined CQUIN goal on the reduction of venous thromboembolism of risk assessing 90 per cent. of hospital inpatients using the national risk assessment tool. [12322]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect specific data on the achievement of goals agreed through the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) framework. Assessing and rewarding achievement of both locally and nationally defined CQUIN goals is the responsibility of local commissioners as part of their contractual relationship with providers. However, in 2010-11 providers must demonstrate achievement of the national CQUIN goal on reducing venous-thromboembolism (VTE) through a national data collection on VTE risk assessment, which started in June 2010. Providers are required to submit their first data return for June no later than 28 July 2010. We will be reviewing the quality of this data with a view to later publication.

For the national CQUIN goal on VTE, the period over which commissioners will assess achievement during 2010-11 is a matter for local negotiation between commissioners and providers, although published guidance states that achievement of the 90% must be over at least a full quarter to earn the related CQUIN payment. From the CQUIN schemes the Department has seen so far, it seems that many providers are aiming to achieve the goal during the last quarter of 2010-11.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of hospitals returned the CQUIN mandatory data collection forms on the nationally defined goal of reducing the incidence of venous thromboembolism by the deadline of 1 June 2010. [12323]

Mr Simon Burns: The mandatory venous thromboembolism risk assessment data collection required from providers of acute national health service services commenced on 1 June 2010. Providers are required to submit their first data return for June no later than 28 July 2010. We will be reviewing the quality of this data with a view to later publication.

Tobacco: Sales

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) of 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 96W, on tobacco: sales, what recent discussions he has had on the implementation of the provisions in the Health Act 2009 in respect of the prohibition of sales of tobacco products from vending machines from 1 October 2011. [12084]

Anne Milton: We continue to consider how best to tackle smoking prevalence in the context of our focus on public health. To date no cross-Government discussions have taken place in respect of tobacco sales from vending machines.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11694]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has well established and constructive industrial relations arrangements. The granting of reasonable facilities and facility time by the Department make an important contribution to the success of the organisation.

It is not possible to make an estimate of the value of total facilities provided by the Department for use by trade unions for each year. The Facilities Agreement sets out what facilities are made available to trades unions. These include office accommodation, access to conference rooms, office furniture, telephones and information technology. Trade unions also have access to typing and reprographic services.

In 2009-10 the notional cost of accommodation in Skipton House, London was £20,620 per annum. In Quarry House, Leeds the notional cost of space provided was £17,109 per annum.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11695]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has well established and constructive industrial relations arrangements. These have been in place for many years and do involve funded facility time.

The Department employs staff who have dedicated accredited union-related duties. These representatives are generally full-time roles. Our records back to 1997 do not include information about the hours worked for each member of staff.

According to our records the number of staff in each year who had "full-time" or "significant time" dedicated to union duties is set out in the following table.

	Headcount
2010-11[1]	6
2009-10	6
2008-09	6
2007-08	6
2006-07	6
2005-06	7
2004-05	8
2003-04	9
2002-03	8
2001-02	9
2000-01	10
1999-2000	8
1998-99	9
1997-98	6

[1] Based on year to date

Other accredited representatives, funded locally by directorates, spend limited time (less than 5% of their time) on union duties. To establish the hours involved would incur disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11696]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has well established and constructive industrial relations arrangements. These have been in place for many years and do involve funded facility time.

It is not possible to provide the information in the ranges requested because the Department's records on union activities are not held in this form.

The Department employs staff who have dedicated, accredited union-related duties. These representatives generally do so in full-time roles. Central records do not include information about the hours worked by each member of staff.

The following table sets out how many staff in each year who had "full-time" or "significant time" dedicated to union duties, spending 25 days or more on union-related duties.

	Headcount
2010-11[1]	6
2009-10	6
2008-09	6
2007-08	6
2006-07	6
2005-06	7
2004-05	8
2003-04	9
2002-03	8
2001-02	9
2000-01	10
1999-2000	8
1998-99	9
1997-98	6

[1] Based on year to date

Other accredited representatives, funded locally by directorates, spend limited time (less than 5% of their time) on union duties. To establish the hours involved would incur disproportionate cost.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12828]

Mr Simon Burns: Any expenditure on alcohol is held by individual teams and it would incur disproportionate cost to collate this information. The Department's Code of Business Conduct requires that the provision of alcohol as an element of hospitality must be limited and reasonable, and that any hospitality provided should be modest and necessary for the effective conduct of departmental business.

This is in accordance with the principles of the Treasury guidance 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

CABINET OFFICE

British Constitution

Paul Murphy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to meet the First Minister of *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales to discuss the Government's proposed constitutional reforms. [11750]

Mr Maude: The Deputy Prime Minister has responsibility for political and constitutional reform. I therefore have no plan to meet the First Ministers of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to discuss constitutional reform.

Business

Richard Fuller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of small businesses started between 2000 and 2005 in *(a)* Bedford constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* the UK were still trading in 2010. [11308]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

> As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what proportion of small businesses started between 2000 and 2005 in (a) Bedford constituency, (b) the Hast of England and (c) the UK were still trading in 2010. [11308]
>
> Annual statistics on business births, deaths and actives are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:
>
> www.statistics.gov.uk
>
> Information on business survival is available from 2003. The table below contains the information available on small enterprise births in Bedford, the East of England and the UK for the years 2003 to 2005, along with the number that survived into 2008, the latest period for which data are available.

Small Enterprise Births 2003-05 and survival into 2008 for Bedford, East of England and the UK

	2003			*2004*			*2005*		
	Births	*Survival into 2008*	*%*	*Births*	*Survival into 2008*	*%*	*Births*	*Survival into 2008*	*%*
UK	266,530	124,160	47	279,640	152,870	55	274,405	177,465	65
East of England	26,110	12,815	49	27,570	15,460	56	26,160	17,255	66
Bedford	415	200	48	400	205	51	405	260	64

Note:

Small enterprises are defined as 0-49 employment.

Business: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses in Leeds North West constituency had a turnover of *(a)* between £70,000 and £100,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12248]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses in Leeds North West constituency had a turnover of (a) between £70.000 and £100,000 and (b) over £100,000 in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12248]

Annual statistics on business counts are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The attached table contains data from 2009 and shows the count of small VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises in Leeds North West constituency by employee and turnover size band.

Count of VAT or PAYE based enterprises with 0-50 employment by turnover size

	Turnover size band (£000s)	
	70-99	*100 +*
Leeds North West	335	1,235

Note:

A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment.

Census

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what mechanisms will be used to collate and analyse data on the population of local authority areas after the 2011 Census. [12374]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what mechanisms will be used to collate and analyse data on the population of local authority areas after the proposed ending of the Census. (12374)

The National Statistician, together with the Registrars General in Scotland and Northern Ireland, has set up the Beyond 2011 Project which will consider a range of options for the production of population statistics beyond the 2011 Census. It is too early to predict the outcome of that work but a decision on the way forward will not be made without consultation with a wide range of users, including Local Authorities, on their requirements.

Census: Local Government

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many local authorities have appointed a census liaison manager in respect of the 2011 Census. [11725]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many local authorities have appointed a census liaison manager in respect of the 2011 Census. (11725)

So far 350 local authorities in England and Wales have appointed a census liaison manager. This figure includes 18 county councils. Some authorities have also appointed assistant census liaison managers.

We are working in partnership with local authorities in the planning of the 2011 Census and we are in discussion with those authorities yet to appoint liaison managers.

Civil Servants: Bedford

Richard Fuller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants are employed by each *(a)* Government department, *(b)* executive agency and *(c)* other employer in Bedford constituency. [11280]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, how many civil servants are employed by each (a) Government department, (b) executive agency and (c) other employer in Bedford constituency. (11280)

In order to provide the information requested for the number of civil servants employed by each department, executive agency and other employer in Bedford, ad hoc analysis has been undertaken. This analysis is based on Civil Service Statistics 2009, the latest data available.

The requested data for Bedford are attached at Annex A.

Annex A:

Civil service employment in Bedford: (a) Departments; (b) Agencies; (c) Other employer[1,2]

	Headcount
31 March 2009	
(a) Departments	
DWP Corporate Services	10
DWP Shared Services	*
HM Revenue and Customs	130
Ministry of Defence	*
Ministry of Justice (excl. agencies)	*
All employees	150
(b) Executive Agencies	
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	10
Driving Standards Agency	40
Highways Agency	270
HM Courts Service	70
Jobcentre Plus	140
Meat Hygiene Service	*
Met Office	10
National Offender Management Service	280
Pensions Disability and Carers Service	20
Tribunals Service	20
UK Border Agency	100
Valuation Office	40
All employees	980

Civil service employment in Bedford; (a) Departments; (b) Agencies; (c) Other employer[1,2]

	Headcount
(c) Other employer	
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	10
All employees	10

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by "*".

[2] This data excludes civil servants seconded to outside the civil service where the Department is paying less than 50% of the individuals salary. Information on civil servants working outside of the civil service (not a Government Department, agency or Crown non-departmental public body) are not collected centrally.

Source:

Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Civil Servants: Denton

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants are employed by *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* other Government employers in Denton and Reddish constituency. [12004]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many civil servants are employed by (a) Government departments, (b) executive agencies and (c) other Government employers in Denton and Reddish constituency. (012004)

Civil Service Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website. The latest published statistics are for March 2009:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

However, the numbers of civil servants employed by Government departments, executive agencies and other Government employers by constituency are generally not available. I am afraid, therefore, that figures for Denton and Reddish constituency cannot be provided.

Deaths: Smoking

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people died from smoking-related illnesses in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2001. [11394]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from smoking-related illnesses in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2001. (11394)

Deaths due to smoking-related illness cannot be directly estimated, as smoking status is not included on the death certificate. However, research published the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care in September 2009 estimated that 83,900 deaths were attributable to smoking in England in 2008[1]. These figures are not available at constituency level.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

[1] The Health and Social Care Information Centre (2009) Statistics on Smoking: England, 2009. Available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/smoking/statistics-on-smoking-england-2009

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12352]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has sold one building and no land since May 2005. The building was 49-53 Parliament Street, London SW1 and was sold in March 2010 for £5.37 million. The proceeds were retained by the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9670]

Mr Maude: Guidance on the handling of official correspondence; preparation of submissions and briefing is available on my Department's intranet. I am placing copies in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in his Department have responsibility for devolution policy. [11883]

Mr Maude: My right hon. Friend, the Deputy Prime Minister, has responsibility for devolution policy and is supported in this by a team of three officials who are also responsible for managing the UK's interests in relation to the British-Irish Council. The Cabinet Secretariat, also part of the Cabinet Office, supports inter-administration relationships through the Joint Ministerial Committee process.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in respect of which 100 constituencies whose boundaries did not change between February 2000 and February 2010 the size of the electorate had the greatest reduction. [10818]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking in respect of which 100 constituencies whose boundaries did not change between February 2000 and February 2010 the size of the electorate fell by the highest number of electors in that period. (10818)

There were 70 constituencies that had boundaries that did not change between February 2000 and December 2009. The attached table shows the 20 constituencies out of these 70 where the size of the electorate fell over the same period. This is the latest year for which figures are available.

The constituencies shown are for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. All Westminster parliamentary constituency boundaries in Scotland were revised in 2004.

Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections

	Total electors 16 February 2000	*Total electors 1 December 2009*	*Difference*
England:			
North East:			
City of Durham	69,923	67,642	-2,284
Wansbeck	63,329	62,882	-447
North West:			
Burnley	67,256	66,876	-380
Southport	70,544	67.761	-2,783
West Lancashire	73,739	72,347	-1,392
Yorkshire and the Humber:			
Scarborough and Whitby	76,572	76.032	-540
East:			
Castle Point	68,065	67,689	-376
South East:			
Gravesham	70,098	69,898	-200
Runnymede and Weybridge	73,364	72,455	-909
Wales:			
Caerphilly	67,390	61,873	-5,517
Delyn	54,236	53,577	-659
Llanelli	58,578	55,841	-2,737
Newport East	55,272	54,140	-1,132
Rhondda	55,934	51,706	-4,228
Wrexham	51,045	50,849	-196
Ynys Mon	52,953	50,200	-2,753
Northern Ireland:			
North Down	63,884	60,098	-3,786
West Tyrone	61,349	60,735	-614

Source:
Office for National Statistics, Boundary Commission for England, General Register Office for Scotland, Boundary Commission for Wales and Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were registered to vote in each ward in each UK parliamentary constituency in each year since 1997. [10819]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many people were registered to vote in each ward in each UK parliamentary constituency in each year since 1997. (10819)

ONS does not have the electoral information that is needed at ward level to provide an answer to this question. UK ward level figures are not collected on a consistent basis and are not currently in a format that can be used to compile the data requested.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the voter registration rate for *(a)* black and ethnic minority persons, *(b)* young people aged between 17 and 24 years and *(c)* persons living in private rented accommodation was in each of the last five years. [10948]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the voter registration rates for (a) black ethnic minority persons, (b) young people aged between 17 and 24 years and (c) persons living in private rented accommodation were in each of the last five years. (10948)

ONS does not hold the information requested. ONS collate and publish data on the number of people registered to vote in local and European government, and parliamentary elections. These data do not include information on the ethnicity, age or tenure of those people registered to vote.

Employment: Manufacturing Industries

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the level of manufacturing employment. [12931]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what is the most recent estimate of the level of manufacturing employment. (12931)

The most recent estimate for the number of workforce jobs in the manufacturing sector is 2.53 million, for March 2010. This figure is seasonally adjusted.

Government Departments: MITIE Group

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts each Government department *(a)* holds with Management Incentive Through Investment Equity Group plc and *(b)* held with the company in each year since 1990; what the length of each such contract was; and what payments have been made under each such contract. [12559]

Mr Maude: Data on MITIE's contracts with Central Government for each year since 1990 are not available centrally. From 1 January 2011, the Government will publish details of all new contracts with its suppliers.

Immigration

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have migrated to the UK who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU member state in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [10583]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of immigrants who were non-UK or non-EU citizens (a) each year since 1997 and (b) each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. (10583)

The annual data that have been provided to answer part (a) are from Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) estimates which are derived from several data sources. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) migrant data provides the foundation of the LTIM estimates with adjustments for asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with regard to their length of stay, and for international migration to and from Northern Ireland.

ONS publish rolling annual estimates each quarter based solely on the IPS. These estimates have been used to answer part (b).

These migration estimates cover those entering with the intention of living in the destination country for periods of twelve months or more. They will therefore exclude those entering the UK for less than twelve months.

These estimates are of numbers of moves each period rather than numbers of people. For instance, an individual could enter in one year, leave just over a year later and then enter again a year after that. They would appear twice in the table for (a).

Long-term international migration, time series, 1997 to 2008, United Kingdom, citizenship

	Thousand
	Non-European Union
Inflow	
1997[1]	166
1998[1]	206
1999[1]	272
2000[1]	316
2001[1]	313
2002[1]	357
2003[1]	344
2004[2]	370
2005[2]	317
2006[2]	343
2007[3]	305
2008[3]	307

[1] For 1997 to 2003, non-European Union estimates exclude EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom)

[2] For 2004 to 2006, non-European Union estimates exclude EU25 (EU15 and A8 groupings the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia plus Malta and Cyprus).

[3] From 2007, non-European Union estimates exclude EU27 (EU25 plus Bulgaria and Romania).

International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, rolling annual data to Q3 2009, United Kingdom, citizenship

		Thousand
	Non-European Union[2]	
Year ending	*Estimate*	*Relative standard error (%)*
Inflow		
December 2007	275	4
March 2008	269	4
June 2008	276	4
September 2008	282	4
December 2008	279	4
March 2009[1]	275	4
June 2009[1]	265	4
September 2009[1]	270	3

[1] Provisional estimates for 2009.

[2] Non-European Union estimates exclude Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania.

Relative standard error (%) = $\frac{\text{Standard error}}{\text{Estimate}} \times 100$

Note:

Estimates are uncalibrated.

Industrial Disputes

Sajid Javid: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cases of industrial action have been recorded in each year since 1990; how many *(a)* workers took part and *(b)* working days were lost in each case; and if he will make a statement. [12958]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of industrial action have been recorded in each year since 1990; how many *(a)* workers took part and *(b)* working days were lost in each case; and if he will make a statement. (012958)

The Office for National Statistics compiles monthly labour disputes statistics for the UK. They exclude disputes which do not result in a stoppage of work and stoppages involving fewer than ten workers or lasting less than one day, unless the total number of working days lost in the dispute is 100 or more.

The table below provides estimates of the number of stoppages, workers involved and working days lost each year in the United Kingdom from 1990 to 2009.

Estimates of number of stoppages, workers involved, working days lost in the United Kingdom, 1990 to 2009

	Number of stoppages	*Number of workers involved (thousand)*	*Working days lost (thousand)*
1990	630	298	1903
1991	369	176	761
1992	253	148	528
1993	211	385	649
1994	205	107	278
1995	235	174	415
1996	244	364	1303
1997	216	130	235
1998	166	93	282
1999	205	141	242
2000	212	183	499
2001	194	180	525
2002	146	943	1323
2003	133	151	499
2004	130	293	905
2005	116	93	157
2006	158	713	755
2007	142	745	1041
2008	144	511	759
2009	98	209	455

Jobseeker's Allowance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people receiving jobseeker's allowance have been receiving it for over 12 months. [11418]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people receiving jobseekers allowance have been receiving it for over 12 months. (11418)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The data that you have requested is already published and can be accessed via the ONS website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk0710.pdf

within the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin, table 11(1).

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are also available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Leukaemia

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate his Department has made of the survival rate for *(a)* adults and *(b)* children diagnosed with leukaemia (i) one year, (ii) two years and (iii) five years after remission. [12652]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent estimate has been made of the survival rate for (a) adults and (b) children diagnosed with leukaemia (i) one year, (ii) two years and (iii) five years after remission. (12652)

ONS publish one and five-year cancer survival rates for adults (aged 15-99). Survival is calculated from the date of diagnosis. The equivalent information is not available for children.

The latest figures are for persons diagnosed in 2003-2007 and followed up to 2008. They are shown in table 1.

Table 1. One- and five-year age-standardised[1] relative cancer survival rates (per cent)[2, 3] for leukaemia, England

		Percentage
	One-year survival	*Five-year survival*
Men	61.8	40.9
Women	60.4	41.8

[1] As cancer survival varies with the age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15-99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures

[2] Leukaemia is defined as C91-C95, in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth edition (ICD-10).

[3] Adult patients aged 15-99.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults (i) in total and (ii) in each primary care trust area have been diagnosed with leukaemia in the UK in each year since 1997; and how many children have died from leukaemia in each of those years. [12653]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) children and (b) adults (i) in total and (ii) in each primary care trust area have been diagnosed with leukaemia in the UK in each year since 1997; and how many children have died from leukaemia in each of those years. [12653]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The tables provide:

1) The number of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia for (a) children aged under 16 years and (b) adults aged 16 years and over (i) in total in the UK for each year from 1997 to 2007 (Table 1) and the number of (a) children aged under 16 years in each (ii) primary care organisation in England for the years 1997 to 2007 combined (Table 2), and (b) adults aged 16 years and over in each (ii) primary care organisation in England for each year from 1997 to 2007 (Table 3).

2) The number of deaths where leukaemia was the underlying cause for (a) children aged under 16 years in the UK for the years 1997 to 2009 (Table 4), and (ii) each primary care organisation in England for the years 1997 to 2009 combined (Table 5).

The number of childhood leukaemia cases (Table 2) and deaths (Table 5) in each primary care organisation have not been given for individual years so that potentially identifiable data are not revealed.

A copy of Tables 2, 3 and 5 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Lone Parents: Rutherglen

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency. [11885]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency. (11885)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary and there have been no boundary changes since 2008 in the area requested.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (thousands)*
Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency (2008)	3

Source:
APS January to December 2008

Low Incomes: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children in each constituency in the East of England live in households with below 60% of the median net disposable household income before housing costs. [11910]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for East of England are set out in the following table.

Number and percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income for the East of England, before housing costs

Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	16

Notes: 1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. 2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. 3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility. 4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. 5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors. 6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. *Source:* Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Measures of income poverty at constituency level are available with National Indicator 116. This indicator shows the number and proportion of children living in families in receipt of child tax credit whose reported income is less than 60% of the median income or in receipt of income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance.

Due to methodological differences to the HBAI publication, these small area estimates are not directly comparable with national or regional figures. NI 116 does not necessarily capture all those, or only those, children living in households below the 60% of median threshold.

Published data for the East of England constituencies for August 2007 and August 2006 can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

Income measures do not necessarily capture all aspects of poverty or inequality facing children and their families and the Government are committed to tackling the causes of poverty and not just treating the symptoms. We must tackle the root causes of how people get trapped in poverty, breaking the cycle of disadvantage and dependency culture to stimulate social mobility.

The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Frank Field) has been asked to lead an independent review of poverty and life chances including examining the case for reforms to poverty measures, in particular for the inclusion of non-financial elements. The review will explore whether there are measures that can improve the way poverty is tackled, ensuring we focus on the root causes and the paths into poverty as well as looking at the non-financial side.

NDPBs

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on public bodies to be abolished under the provisions of the proposed Public Bodies (Reform) Bill; and whether he has decided that any particular public bodies should not be abolished as a result of those discussions; [12502]

(2) what estimate has been made of the proportion of public bodies which will be abolished as a result of implementation of the provisions of the proposed Public Bodies (Reform) Bill if passed; [12505]

(3) which public bodies within the responsibility of each Department *(a)* perform a technical function, *(b)* require political impartiality and *(c)* act independently to establish facts. [12509]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to reducing the number of public bodies to increase accountability and reduce costs. To this end, I am working with ministerial colleagues to assess the public bodies that fall within their areas of responsibility against three tests: do they perform a technical function; do they require political impartiality; or do they act independently to establish facts.

This assessment is still underway. We expect to publish the outcome by the autumn, and plan to introduce the Bill in October.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the reduction in public expenditure which will arise from implementation of the provisions of the proposed Public Bodies (Reform) Bill. [12504]

Mr Maude: The primary aim of the planned Public Bodies (Reform) Bill is to increase the accountability of public bodies, but we also expect that abolitions and mergers arising from the Bill will create savings in future years and departments will be incorporating initial savings into their spending review plans. No estimate has yet been made of the level of savings expected.

New Businesses

Richard Fuller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have been started in *(a)* Bedford constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* the UK in each year since 2000. [11309]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many new businesses have been started in (a) Bedford constituency, (b) the East of England and (c) the UK in each year since 2000. [11309]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and actives are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on enterprise births in Bedford, the East of England and the UK for the years 2002 to 2008.

Enterprise Births 2002-08 for Bedford, East of England and the UK

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
UK	242,540	267,000	280,080	274,855	255,530	280,725	270,215
East of England	24,380	26,140	27,600	26,190	25,055	27,600	26,160
Bedford	340	415	400	410	360	420	405

Personal Income

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average income of *(a)* households and *(b)* single-parent households was in (i) England, (ii) Yorkshire and (iii) Leeds in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12247]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, asking what the average income of (a) households and (b) single-parent households was in (i) England, (ii) Yorkshire and (iii) Leeds in the most recent year for which figures are available. (012247)

Table 1 shows the estimated average net weekly equivalised household income in England, and Yorkshire and the Humber (both before and after housing costs) for the years 2006/07 to 2008/09 (as a three-year average) at 2008/09 prices, and similar income estimates for Leeds for 2007/08, at 2008/09 prices. These estimates are the latest available. Estimates for single-parent households for Leeds are not available.

The estimates provided for England, and Yorkshire and the Humber, are based on data from the Households Below Average Income series produced by the Department for Work and Pensions, and small area statistics for Leeds produced by the ONS.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised[1] household income[2] for all households and single-parent households[3], Leeds, Yorkshire and the Humber, and England, 2006-07 to 2008-09[4] [5]

£ per week

	All households				*Single-parent households*			
	Median		*Mean*		*Median*		*Mean*	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
England	403	349	504	440	292	211	329	253
Yorkshire and the Humber	373	327	444	393	279	222	316	253
Leeds	—	—	458	397	—	—	—	—

[1] Data are based on OECD equivalisation factors which account for variation in household size and composition between survey years.

[2] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, national insurance contributions and council tax.

[3] Single-parent households have been defined as households where there is at least one family consisting of one adult and at least one dependent child.

[4] Estimates for England, and Yorkshire and the Humber are presented as three-year averages in 2008-09 prices. Estimates for Leeds are for 2007-08 in 2008-09 prices.

[5] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions and Office for National Statistics.

Statistics

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take to minimise the effects of reductions in departmental expenditure on the integrity of the UK statistical system; and if he will consult *(a)* the National Statistician and *(b)* the UK Statistics Authority on this matter. [12846]

Mr Maude: It is the responsibility of each Department to manage their budgets, in accordance with departmental priorities. The Head of Profession for Statistics is responsible for promoting the importance of official statistics produced within their Department. They also have the support of the National Statistician.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007; and if he will make a statement. [12847]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is carrying out post legislative scrutiny of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, in accordance with current policy of reviewing primary legislation and I will submit a Memorandum of Understanding to the Public Administration Select Committee in the autumn.

Swine Flu

Paul Flynn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the conclusions of the Cabinet Office's report on the 2009 influenza pandemic. [11625]

Mr Maude: In March 2010 Dame Deirdre Hine was commissioned by the four UK Health Ministers to chair a review of the 2009 influenza pandemic. On 1 July, the Secretary of State for Health welcomed her report and recommendations and set out that he would take these into consideration, alongside financial constraints, when reviewing future pandemic plans in the National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic.

Officials from all key Departments are working together to consider the recommendations and therefore I have had no formal discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on the conclusions of the review.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12974]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Bryant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the conception rate in girls under 20 years was in each local authority area in Wales in 2008. [12590]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the conception rate in girls under 20 years was in each local authority area in Wales in 2008. (12590)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the conception rate for women under 20 in each unitary authority in Wales in 2008.

Table 1: Conception rate[1] to women under 20[2] in Unitary Authorities[3] in Wales 2008

Local authority	*Conception rate*
Isle of Anglesey	64.0
Gwynedd	55.4
Conwy	65.6
Denbighshire	70.7
Flintshire	60.9
Wrexham	71.6
Powys	46.8
Ceredigion	35.5
Pembrokeshire	66.8
Carmarthenshire	61.0
Swansea	57.9
Neath Port Talbot	73.3
Bridgend	72.8
Vale of Glamorgan	58.3
Rhondda Cynon Taff	84.0
Merthyr Tydfil	95.1
Caerphilly	74.9
Blaenau Gwent	69.6
Torfaen	72.0
Monmouthshire	45.5
Newport	65.9
Cardiff	56.7

[1] Number of conceptions to women under 20 per 1,000 female population aged 15-19

[2] Under 20 years at estimated date of conception

[3] Boundaries as of May 2010

[4] Provisional.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many conceptions in girls under 18 years there were in England and Wales in 2008; [12591]

(2) how many conceptions in girls under 16 years there were in England and Wales in 2008. [12592]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics. I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary questions asking how many conceptions in girls under 18 years there were in England and Wales in 2008 (12591), and how many conceptions in girls under 16 years there were in England and Wales in 2008 (12592).

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the number of conceptions to women under 16 and under 18 in England and Wales in 2008.

Table 1: Conceptions to women aged under 16[1] and under 18[2] in England and Wales 2008[3]

	Under 16	*Under 18*
England and Wales	7,577	41,325

[1] Under 16 years at estimated date of conception.

[2] Under 18 years at estimated date of conception—includes under 16s.

[3] Provisional figures.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many pregnancies among girls under 20 years old there were in each constituency in England and Wales in 2008. [12593]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many pregnancies among girls under 20 years old there were in each constituency in England and Wales in 2008. (12593)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Because of the confidentiality of data on abortions and stillbirths figures on conceptions are not published for small areas. Figures cannot be provided by parliamentary constituency because of the risk of disclosing such information due to small differences with local authority boundaries.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the conception rate in girls under 20 years-old was in England and Wales in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 1998. [12594]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the conception rate in girls under 20 years old was in England and Wales in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 1998. (12594)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

The table below provides the conception rates to women under 20 in England and Wales in *(b)* 1998 and *(a)* 2008.

Table 1: Conception rates[1] for women under 20[2] in England and Wales in 1998 and 2008[3]

	Conception rate
1998	65.1
2008	60.1

[1] Conception rates are calculated as the number of conceptions to women under 20 per 1,000 female population aged 15-19.
[2] Under 20 years of age at estimated date of conception.
[3] Figures for 2008 are provisional.

Unemployment

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what percentage of social tenant households in each local authority area have no individuals in paid employment; and if he will make a statement. [11376]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what percentage of social tenant households in each local authority area have no individuals in paid employment. (11376)

The information requested is given in the table. The figures are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets for the period January to December 2007. A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. Due to the specific detail of the request, it is not possible to provide estimates for many of the local authorities because of insufficient sample sizes.

Voluntary Work: Disability

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on policy to encourage people with disabilities to *(a)* undertake voluntary activities and *(b)* provide other contributions to their local areas. [10615]

Mr Hurd: I have not met the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to discuss ways to encourage disabled people to volunteer. However, officials in the Office for Civil Society work closely with the Office of Disability Issues to discuss ways to encourage disabled people to volunteer. In addition the Office for Civil Society currently offers grants to organisations to enable more disabled people to volunteer through the Access to Volunteering programme, which operates in London, the North West and the West Midlands.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

British Constitution

Paul Murphy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will refer to the British-Irish Council and the Joint Ministerial Council the matter of the effect on the devolved Administrations of the Government's proposed constitutional reform. [11751]

Mr Harper: The Government discussed the coalition agreement and those elements within it, including constitutional, reform, which were likely to be of most significance to the devolved Administrations at the plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) in June. The Government's constitutional reform agenda was also discussed in July at the inter-governmental senior officials' forum which supports the JMC. We will continue to work collaboratively with the devolved Administrations and the forward work programme for the JMC and JMC (Domestic) will be the subject of discussion by ministers collectively at the first meeting of JMC (Domestic) in the autumn. These matters are not appropriate for discussion at the British-Irish Council, which contains members who are not part of the United Kingdom.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median and *(c)* mode annual pension payment currently made in the Civil Service Pension scheme. [11806]

Mr Maude: As at 31 March 2010 the mean annual pension payment to former civil servants and their dependents was £6,767.44. The median payment was £4,302.01. Rounded to the nearest pound, the mode figure was £1,184.

Constituencies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what timetable has been set for the review of the size of UK parliamentary constituencies. [10782]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, introduced on 22 July, requires that the Boundary Commissions must submit reports to the Secretary of State before 1 October 2013, and a further review must be completed every five years from that point on. This will ensure that constituency boundaries remain up to date and fair.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to ensure that unregistered electors are placed on the electoral register before the implementation of his proposals to change the size of parliamentary constituencies. [10783]

Mr Harper: As the Deputy Prime Minister made clear in his statement to the House on 5 July, calculations for the electoral quota will be derived from the register published on 1 December 2010. The canvass for this register will be carried out under the existing household registration arrangements as is the usual practice.

The Government are currently considering the options for speeding up the implementation of individual electoral registration in a way that will improve the levels of registration and will announce its approach to this in due course.

Mr Chope: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill do not reflect the contents of the Coalition agreement relating to the number of parliamentary constituencies. [12733]

Mr Harper: The Coalition agreement stated that provision would be made 'for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies'. The Bill achieves this by reducing the size of the House of Commons from 650 to 600 members, and by providing that every, constituency is to be within 5% of a United Kingdom electoral quota of registered electors, with some very limited exceptions.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what instructions have been issued by his private office on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to correspondence. [9676]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 6 September 2010.

Departmental Internet

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse of developing the Your Freedom website has been. [11221]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 248W.

Elections

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with members of the Calman Implementation Group on the decision to hold the first fixed-term election in May 2015. [12195]

Mr Harper: The Secretary of State for Scotland and the Exchequer Secretary chaired the first meeting of the High Level Implementation Group on the 26 July. This group has been established to draw on external financial expertise and work through the tax compliance issues arising from the Calman finance proposals.

The Government are consulting a range of stakeholders in relation to their proposal to introduce fixed-term parliaments. The Secretary of State for Scotland has written to the First Minister, leaders of other political parties in Scotland and the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament to indicate that he wants to discuss how best to deal with the combination of polls in May 2015.

Electoral Register

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he expects individual registration of electors to commence in September 2011. [10320]

Mr Harper: The Government are currently considering the options for implementation of individual electoral registration in a way that will improve the levels of registration, so people who are entitled to vote are on the register, and will inform the House of their plans in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many electoral registration officers have been fined under section 9a of the Electoral Administration Act 2006; [10785]

(2) how many electoral registration officers have been convicted of an offence related to failure to take sufficient steps to register electors under section 9A of the Electoral Administration Act 2006. [10893]

Mr Harper: Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as inserted by section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, places a duty on Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to take certain steps in maintaining the electoral register. Section 63 of the 1983 Act provides that for a wide range of electoral officials (including EROs), breach of official duty is a criminal offence. To date no EROs have been prosecuted or convicted for failure to discharge their section 9A duty.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the use of fixed penalty notices on the number of eligible electors who repeatedly fail to register to vote. [10808]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. Options for improving registration rates will be considered as part of the wider programme of implementing individual electoral registration in Great Britain.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of door-to-door visits for the purpose of electoral registration of the implementation of the Electoral Administration Act 2006. [10809]

Mr Harper: Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 inserted section 9A into the Representation of the People Act 1983, imposing new duties on electoral registration officers (EROs) to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register. The steps that EROs must take, as set out in that section, include:

(a) sending more than once to any address the form to be used for the canvass;

(b) making on one or more occasions house to house inquiries;

(c) making contact by such other means as the registration officer thinks appropriate with persons who do not have an entry in a register;

(d) inspecting any records held by any person which he is permitted to inspect under or by virtue of any enactment or rule of law;

(e) providing training to persons under his direction or control in connection with the carrying out of the duty.

The Government do not collect information on the steps taken by EROs and have not made such an assessment.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will assess the merits of engaging private sector credit reference companies to assist in the collection of information for the purpose of electoral registration; [10810]

(2) if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the merits of taking steps to ensure that all claimants of benefits over the age of 18 years are placed on the electoral register. [10811]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering options for implementation of individual electoral registration together with ways to improve registration rates and will announce their approach in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on the level of *(a)* electoral registration and *(b)* accuracy of the electoral register of the Government's proposed reductions in public spending. [10820]

Mr Harper: The level of *(a)* electoral registration and *(b)* the accuracy of the electoral register will be subject to continuing assessment in the context of the Government's move to a system of individual electoral registration in Great Britain. Electoral registration officers (EROs) are under a statutory duty to compile and maintain comprehensive and accurate electoral registers. It is for the local authorities which appoint them to ensure they have sufficient funds and resources to do so. The Electoral Commission sets and monitors performance standards for EROs.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the reasons that levels of electoral registration are not higher than they are. [10823]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. However, the Electoral Commission's report: 'The completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain', published in March 2010, found that "the completeness of Great Britain's electoral registers remains broadly similar to the levels achieved in comparative countries." The most recent estimate, based on figures from 2000, is that the electoral register is 91% complete.

The report also found, however, that "national datasets and local case study research suggest there may be widening local and regional variations in registration levels." In addition, it found that "under-registration is notably higher than average among 17-24 year olds (56% not registered), private sector tenants (49%) and black and minority ethnic (BME) British residents (31%)".

Further detail on the Commission's findings can be found at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/publications-and-research/policy-and-research?query=&meta_s_phrase=Electoral_register&meta_dyear=&sort=relevancy&daat=on

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what proportion of households in each local authority area responded to the most recent annual electoral registration canvass; and how much each local authority spent per election on voter registration in the latest period for which figures are available; [10892]

(2) which local authority areas have not undertaken comprehensive doorstep canvassing for non respondents to electoral registration in the last 12 months. [10895]

Mr Harper: Under section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, electoral registration officers (EROs) have a duty to take certain steps to maintain the electoral register, including house-to-house inquiries, and therefore it is expected that all local authority electoral registration departments would undertake this exercise.

The Electoral Commission requests that electoral registration officers supply them with information about the methods they use to canvass properties. This information is supplied on a voluntary basis, and does not therefore give a comprehensive picture.

The most recent data are published in a spreadsheet titled 'The electoral registration data for 2009' on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/data-collection

and includes the following headings:

Number of households sent an annual canvass form

Number of households returning a canvass form by personal canvasser

Number of electors added to the revised register following the 2009 annual canvass as a result of an annual canvass form

Number of electors on the local government register at 1 September 2009

Number of electors on the local government register at 1 December 2009.

The Commission further informs me that it has published full financial data for each local authority in Great Britain, covering the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. The information can be found on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

The Commission is collecting information for the financial year 2009-10, which will be published on its website next year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of best practice among local authorities in introducing innovative approaches to encouraging voter registration; and if he will make a statement. [10894]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. The Electoral Commission is under a statutory duty to provide advice and guidance to electoral registration officers (EROs) on the performance of their duties. In addition, the Commission conducts research into aspects of electoral registration and sets and monitors performance standards for EROs.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the compatibility of software used by local authorities for electoral registration with that used by *(a)* the Electoral Commission and *(b)* the Ministry of Justice. [10896]

Mr Harper: The Government have not carried out such an assessment. The Ministry of Justice does not administrate electoral registration and so does not maintain software for that purpose.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much of the £2.5 million funding set aside by the Ministry of Justice to encourage participation in electoral registration was spent in each year it was available; and how much each local authority eligible for such funding received in each such year. [10897]

Mr Harper: £2.5 million was set aside by the Ministry of Justice to support local electoral officers in undertaking their statutory duties under section 69 of the Electoral

Administration Act 2006 in each of the financial years 2007-08 to 2009-10. Electoral registration officers were invited to apply for grants from the fund. The following amounts were paid in each year:

	£
2007-08	934,741.56
2008-09	544,391.70
2009-10	[1]153,894.99

[1] The Government provided pre-approval for a further £399,976 to be spent by local electoral officers. This will be paid upon receipt of relevant claims and invoices.

A breakdown of the amounts which were provided to individual local authorities in each of the aforementioned years will be placed in the Libraries of both houses.

In addition, a total of £67,354.96 is planned to be spent in 2010-11. This sum relates to the cost of activities which were undertaken by local authority electoral officials to encourage participation at the elections which were held on 6 May. The Participation Fund has now been ended, in the emergency Budget of 22 June 2010. Support for the work of electoral registration officers will be strengthened as part of the move to individual electoral registration which this Government are committed to speeding up.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of local government databases by electoral registration officers in *(a)* unitary authorities and *(b)* two-tier authorities for the purposes of voter registration. [10898]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. Legislation currently provides that EROs may inspect records held by the local authority that appointed them and the registrar of births and deaths. EROs appointed by district or borough councils in two tier local authority areas may therefore not have access to records held by county councils, including data held by social services and education departments. The Government have announced their intention to speed up the implementation of individual electoral registration in Great Britain and any consideration of further legislation relating to registration will be in that context.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will assess the merits of using the vehicle registration database held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to increase levels of voter registration. [10899]

Mr Harper: The Government are currently considering piloting the use of various public datasets to assist Electoral Registration Officers in identifying individuals to encourage registration, alongside the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration in Great Britain. We will make an announcement on our approach in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities have set up electoral registration working groups. [10900]

Mr Harper: This information is not collected.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of electoral registration officers did not meet targets for public awareness of electoral registration in each of the last five years. [10901]

Mr Harper: The Government do not hold this information, but under section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, each electoral registration officer is under a duty to take all steps that are necessary to maintain their registers.

The steps that EROs must take, as set out in that section, include:

(a) sending more than once to any address the form to be used for the canvass;

(b) making on one or more occasions house to house inquiries;

(c) making contact by such other means as the registration officer thinks appropriate with persons who do not have an entry in a register;

(d) inspecting any records held by any person which he is permitted to inspect under or by virtue of any enactment or rule of law;

(e) providing training to persons under his direction or control in connection with the carrying out of the duty.

The Electoral Commission published a report on EROs' performance in March 2010: "Report on performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain". The report found that just under 96% of EROs in Great Britain met or exceeded the required standard for the "Completeness and accuracy of electoral registration records", compared to 83% of EROs the previous year.

More information about Electoral Registration Officers' performance against the standards can be found at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the trends in variation in electoral registration at *(a)* local and *(b)* regional level; and if he will make a statement. [10902]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. The Electoral Commission's report: "The completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain", published in March 2010, provides a high level assessment of voter registration at a national level and a more detailed analysis in a number of case study areas.

On local and regional variations, the Commission found that there were

> "growing local and regional variations in the completeness and accuracy of the registers, with metropolitan and unitary areas outside of Greater London experiencing the greatest levels of decline."

Further, it found:

> "The highest concentrations of under-registration are most likely to be found in metropolitan areas, smaller towns and cities with large student populations, and coastal areas with significant population turnover and high levels of social deprivation."

However, although the report provides an initial analysis of the factors which may explain local and regional variations, it identifies the need for further analysis and additional research

> "into the reasons for the apparent decline in registration levels and the growth of local and regional variations".

Further detail on the Commission's findings can be found at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/publications-and-research/policy-and-research?query=&meta_s_phrase=Electoral_register&meta_dyear=&sort=relevancy&daat=on

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of levels of voter registration in areas which are *(a)* densely populated and *(b)* not densely populated; and if he will make a statement. [10903]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. The Electoral Commission's Report: 'The completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain', published in March 2010, provides a high level assessment of voter registration at a national level and a more detailed analysis in a number of case study areas. In relation to population density, it indicates that, while there is no straightforward relationship between population density and the state of local register,

> "it is predominantly densely populated urban areas with significant concentrations of mobile young people which typically have the highest levels of under-registration".

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many convictions for offences related to fraudulent registration on the electoral register there were in each of the last 10 years. [10904]

Mr Harper: This information is not collected centrally. The most recent publication on electoral fraud was the joint report by the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), entitled "Analysis of allegations of electoral malpractice at the June 2009 elections", published in January 2010. The report stated that the number of cases of electoral malpractice recorded by police forces in Great Britain was 48 (arising from 107 allegations). 26 out of the 48 cases (52% of the total number) relating to the June 2009 elections were recorded as requiring no further action.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the likely effects of individual voter registration on registration rates among *(a)* black and ethnic minority persons, *(b)* young people aged between 17 and 24 years and *(c)* persons living in private rented accommodation. [10949]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering what further steps could be taken to improve registration rates, particularly among people from those groups which have been identified as currently being under-represented, in the context of the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration in Great Britain. We will set out our approach in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what mechanisms are in place to ensure that local authorities undertake comprehensive doorstep canvassing in respect of households which fail to return voter registration information. [11501]

Mr Harper: Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 inserted section 9A into the Representation of the People Act 1983, imposing new duties on electoral registration officers (EROs) to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register. The steps that EROs must take, as set out in that section, include:

> (a) sending more than once to any address the form to be used for the canvass;
>
> (b) making on one or more occasions house to house inquiries;
>
> (c) making contact by such other means as the registration officer thinks appropriate with persons who do not have an entry in a register;
>
> (d) inspecting any records held by any person which he is permitted to inspect under or by virtue of any enactment or rule of law;
>
> (e) providing training to persons under his direction or control in connection with the carrying out of the duty.

The Electoral Commission has produced comprehensive guidance for EROs, on all aspects of managing electoral registration. The guidance specifically deals with matters in relation to undertaking an annual canvass, the appointment of canvassers and the requirement to make house visits to non-responding households.

In addition, the Commission sets performance standards against which EROs self assess. The standards cover the extent to which EROs use house-to-house inquiries to ensure that all eligible residents are registered.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to provide for penalties against authorities which fail to provide sufficient funding and resources to enable electoral registration officers to fulfil their statutory responsibilities. [11502]

Mr Harper: The Government have no current plans to do so. Electoral registration officers (EROs) are under a statutory duty to compile and maintain comprehensive and accurate electoral registers. It is for the local authorities which appoint them to ensure they have sufficient funds and resources to do so.

The Government are considering what further steps could be taken to improve electoral registration in the context of the implementation of individual electoral registration in Great Britain. We will set out our approach in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make an assessment of the robustness of the self-assessment procedure for electoral registration officers; and if he will make a statement. [11528]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission are responsible for setting and monitoring Performance Standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain.

The Electoral Commission undertake a verification exercise as part of the self assessment process, in order to ensure the process has been carried out in an accurate and consistent way. The Electoral Commission's March 2010 report on Performance Standards sets out how they verify self-assessments in more detail. A copy of the report can be found at:

> http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards

The Electoral Commission have informed the Government that they will keep the performance standards framework, including the assessment reports, under continual review.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to increase the accuracy of the reporting by electoral registration officers on the amount spent per elector on voter registration. [11529]

Mr Harper: As part of its work in developing performance standards for electoral services, the Electoral Commission launched a financial information survey across Great Britain in September 2007. Electoral registration officers and returning officers were asked to complete the survey and return it by 31 July 2008, and again in July 2009. The Commission published its report "The Cost of Electoral Administration in Great Britain" in June 2010, based on the survey findings and covering the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years.

The report notes that there were a range of issues with the reporting process (for example, response rates were not 100%, and some returns were incomplete), and the Government understands that the Electoral Commission is looking to improve the process for future reports. Further details on these issues and the Commission's response to them can be found on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals for the further use of fixed penalty notices in cases relating to a failure to register to vote. [11530]

Mr Harper: The Government have no plans to bring forward proposals for the further use of fixed penalty notices in cases relating to a failure to register to vote.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to ensure that hon. Members and other elected representatives are informed of registration rates in their constituencies. [11531]

Mr Harper: Electoral registration figures are published annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and are publicly available on their website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=319

The process of calculating registration rates (ie the percentage of the entire population who are registered to vote) is not straightforward, as the total number of people who are eligible to vote is not known. However, the Electoral Commission's recent research in this area, "Report on the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain", published in March 2010, is also publicly available at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/publications-and-research/policy-and-research

Mr Brady: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* Commonwealth citizens, *(c)* citizens of the Republic of Ireland and *(d)* citizens of other EU countries are on the electoral register for each parliamentary constituency. [11974]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) British Citizens, (b) Commonwealth citizens, (c) citizens of the Republic of Ireland and (d) citizens of other EU countries are on the electoral register for each parliamentary constituency (11974).

ONS does not hold specific data on the number of British, Commonwealth, Irish citizens or citizens of other EU countries, registered to vote.

Figures on all eligible citizens registered to vote in parliamentary elections are collected as a single number. Data are not available to distinguish between citizen groups registered to vote in parliamentary elections.

Fixed-term Parliaments

Caroline Flint: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of bringing forward proposals on fixed terms for a Parliament of four years or less. [11606]

Mr Harper: Fixed-term parliaments will provide stability, as it will be known from the beginning of the Parliament how long it can be expected to last. The current maximum length of a Parliament is five years. A period of five years provides the right amount of time to allow for strong and stable Government while still ensuring that Parliament and Government remain accountable to the electorate.

Legislation: Devolution

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has set a timetable for the amendment of legislation governing devolution as a consequence of his proposed review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries. [10623]

Mr Harper: In Wales and Northern Ireland, at present parliamentary constituencies act as constituencies for the purposes of elections to the devolved Assemblies. The relevant provisions are included in the Government of Wales Act 2006 and the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

In respect of Wales the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill includes provision at clause 11 to break the link between parliamentary constituencies and Assembly constituencies so that fewer parliamentary constituencies in future would not lead to a reduction in the size of the Assembly.

In respect of Northern Ireland the Government believe that the size of the Assembly is a matter for the Assembly itself to consider. The Government have no intention of dictating the size of a future Assembly but in the absence of any decision by the Assembly we do not intend to make specific provision in relation to the Northern Ireland Assembly in this Bill. As a result the existing legislative framework would provide for a reduced Assembly by the time of the 2015 election. However, once the Assembly have completed their consideration of this matter the Government will bring forward further legislation to give effect to any changes recommended by the Assembly in advance of the 2015 election.

Ministers

Mr Allen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward legislative proposals to limit the number of Ministers in the House of Commons in proportion to the reduction in the number of hon. Members. [10609]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the response of my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister to questions on the statement on Political and Constitutional Reform on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-47.

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his timetable is for proceedings on the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill. [11478]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill was introduced to the House on Thursday 22 July and second reading is scheduled to take place on Monday 6 September.

The remainder of the timetable is subject to parliamentary business.

Political Parties: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward legislative proposals to restrict donations by trade unions to political parties; and if he will make a statement. [11205]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 681W. We are considering our approach to party funding as part of the Government's overall programme of reforms, and an announcement will be made in due course.

Voting Systems: Referendums

Mr Chope: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consultation he has undertaken with the Electoral Commission on *(a)* the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill and *(b)* the question that is to appear on the ballot papers for the referendum on the alternative vote system. [12735]

Mr Harper: My right hon. Friend, the Deputy Prime Minister and I have had discussions with the Commission on a number of matters.

Following publication of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill on 22 July 2010, the Electoral Commission has commenced its assessment of the intelligibility of the proposed referendum question, as required under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Mr Chope: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of holding the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system. [12736]

Mr Harper: As indicated in the written answer provided to the right hon. Member for Blackburn (Mr Straw) and the hon. Members for Bolton North East (Mr Crausby) and for Dunfermline and West Fife, (Thomas Docherty) on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 798W, many of the cost elements of running the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system will be similar to those for a general election. The previous Government estimated the cost for conduct elements of the 2010 general election in Great Britain at £82.1 million—30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1079W. Based on this, and our modelling for the 2009 European and 2010 general elections, it can be estimated that the cost of conduct elements for the proposed referendum will be similar. We have made initial assumptions about the conduct costs of a referendum were it not to be combined with any other polls and on that basis we currently estimate a saving of £17 million on the conduct costs of the referendum through combination.

Additionally, as indicated in the written answer by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Devon (Mr Streeter) of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 144W, the Electoral Commission has estimated that the cost of its own activities in relation to the referendum at £9.3 million.

Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, designated lead campaign organisations are entitled to send a referendum address post free, similar to the entitlement in place for candidates at general elections. The cost of funding this entitlement does not form part of the costs of the conduct of the poll. The Government are considering how this entitlement will apply at the referendum on the alternative vote.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Mass Media

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on press monitoring services in each year since 1997. [11419]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England has supplied the information available in the table for costs related to press monitoring services since 2003. This information is only retained for seven years therefore figures before 2003 are not available.

Financial year	£
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	[1]—
2006-07	68,873
2007-08	119,008
2008-09	100,404
2009-10	103,595

[1] To follow.

Figures for years before 2006-07 are archived following a significant change to Arts Council England's financial management system in 2006. Arts Council England is continuing to collate the remaining archived information and I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to the hon. Member for Burnley (Gordon Birtwistle) with a full response once that process has been completed. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts: Industry

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the creative and digital industries play a role in the consultation on his Department's structural reform plan. [12855]

Mr Vaizey: The Structural Reform Plan, published on 15 July, invites views on the Department's blueprint for activity over the next two years and we are already working with partners to achieve the specific actions. Further consultation and announcements on wider policies and plans will follow later in the year.

We have already committed to supporting the creative and digital industries and local media by scrapping local cross media ownership rules and modernising the national media regulatory regime, leading to a new Communications Bill in due course.

BBC

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to make the BBC more accountable to Parliament; what discussions he has had with the BBC on this issue since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [12225]

Mr Vaizey: The coalition Government are committed to ensuring the National Audit Office has full access to the BBC's accounts by November 2011, in order to improve the BBC's transparency and accountability. I discussed this matter briefly with the chair of the BBC Trust in June.

BBC: Audit

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on implementing his Department's proposal to give the National Audit Office full access to the BBC's accounts. [11201]

Mr Vaizey: I discussed the matter briefly with the Chair of the BBC Trust last month. As announced in my Department's Structural Reform Plan, my officials are now working with the BBC Trust to ensure the commitment is achieved by November 2011, in a way that preserves the BBC's editorial independence.

Broadband

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his Department's responsibilities are for delivery of the UK's broadband infrastructure. [11121]

Mr Vaizey: Delivery of the UK's broadband infrastructure is first and foremost for the private sector. From a Government perspective, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport takes overall responsibility for policy and delivery of programmes, with the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries (shared between DCMS and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) also working on this portfolio.

Officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Broadband Delivery UK, the team charged with delivering universal broadband, report for these purposes to both Ministers.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department have experience of broadband infrastructure projects. [12540]

Mr Vaizey: Officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills report to me for these purposes. This includes Broadband Delivery UK, the team charged with delivering universal broadband. This team has been assembled to include people with experience of broadband infrastructure projects, and contains secondees from the private sector.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost of delivering superfast broadband in rural areas; and who will pay for this exercise. [11257]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have not made their own estimate, but the Broadband Stakeholder Group published research in 2008, which estimated the total cost of deployment of superfast broadband for the UK. This information is available at

www.broadbanduk.org

It concluded that rolling out fibre nationwide would cost between £5.1 billion and £28.8 billion (depending on the technology used).

Providing this investment is first and foremost for the private sector. Government's role is primarily to provide the right climate and incentives for investment but we have not ruled out financial support through the TV licence fee from 2013.

Camelot Group

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what action his Department has taken to ensure that the National Lottery Commission consults stakeholders and other interested parties regarding the implications for its core National Lottery business and brand as a consequence of Camelot's application to be able to operate other commercial services; and if he will make a statement. [7662]

John Penrose: On 16 July, the National Lottery Commission announced its decision on the proposals from Camelot to offer commercial services through National Lottery terminals.

The Commission is minded to refuse to grant consent to Camelot's application to undertake these ancillary activities on the basis of the EU/competition law concerns it raises. It is a provisional decision in order to give those who are interested in the Commission's decision a final opportunity to make representations, these should be made by 3 September 2010.

The Commission conducted a limited consultation on the EU and competition law considerations which may arise from the proposal, as these are issues on which those already offering such services have a direct interest. The Commission considers that it will have sufficient information to exercise its discretion properly, without consulting on the implications for the core National Lottery business and brand.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the National Lottery Commission and *(b)* Camelot regarding Camelot's application to be able to operate certain commercial services in addition to the National Lottery; and if he will make a statement. [7666]

John Penrose: My officials and I have regular meetings with both the National Lottery Commission (NLC) and Camelot about the full range of National Lottery regulation issues, and the possibility of Camelot providing commercial services which are ancillary to the operation of the National Lottery has been discussed in that context.

On 16 July, the National Lottery Commission announced its decision on the proposals from Camelot to offer commercial services through National Lottery terminals.

The Commission is minded to refuse to grant consent to Camelot's application to undertake these ancillary activities on the basis of the EU/competition law concerns it raises. It is a provisional decision in order to give those who are interested in the Commission's decision a final opportunity to make representations, these should be made by 3 September 2010.

Camelot: Post Offices

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will direct Post Office Ltd. not to carry out an assessment into the impact of Camelot's proposals to enter the bill payment and mobile top-up market on the income of sub-post offices while Post Office Ltd. is a named partner in the Camelot proposal; and if he will make a statement. [8082]

John Penrose *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State has no power to intervene in this process.

On 8 April 2010, the Commission published a clarification to Camelot's proposals which explained that

> "there is currently no concluded agreement between the Post Office and Camelot in relation to the provision of commercial services...All discussions with the Post Office have been on an exploratory basis only and there is no certainty that they will progress beyond this stage."

On 16 July, the National Lottery Commission announced its decision on the proposals from Camelot to offer commercial services through national lottery terminals.

The Commission is minded to refuse to grant consent to Camelot's application to undertake these ancillary activities on the basis of the EU/competition law concerns it raises. It is a provisional decision in order to give those who are interested in the Commission's decision a final opportunity to make representations, these should be made by 3 September 2010.

Cricket: Community Development

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people *(a)* in total and *(b)* in deprived areas who played cricket (i) between 1980 and 1997, (ii) between 1997 and 2001 and (iii) since 2005; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who currently regularly play cricket (A) in total and (B) in deprived areas in each region of the UK; [11134]

(2) how much was allocated to grassroots cricket in deprived areas *(a)* from 2001 to 2005 and *(b)* from 2005 to 2009. [11138]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England had been measuring adult participation in sport through the Active People Survey since 2005. The total number of adults who played cricket at least once a month in 2005-06 was 380,366 . The last full year data for 2008-09 showed there were 206,600 adults who played cricket once a week for 30 minutes at moderate intensity. The next full year data will be available in December 2010.

Sport England does not hold data for participation in cricket before 2005 and although it does hold data by social economic group the sample size for cricket is too small to provide a geographical breakdown. More information on the Active People Survey can be found on the Sport England website:

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx

From 2005-09 Sport England invested £46,944,318 into Cricket. For the period 2009-13 Sport England will invest £38,003,357 into Cricket. Sport England do not hold data in a format that allows it to identify funding allocated to grassroots cricket in deprived areas.

Departmental Air Travel

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on air travel in each year since 1997. [12043]

John Penrose: Air travel is not separately recorded on the DCMS finance system from other spend on UK and overseas travel and subsistence. It would not be possible to disaggregate this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

The total expenditure on overseas travel and subsistence since 1997 can be seen in the following table:

Financial year	*Total (£)*[1]
2009-10	171,840
2008-09	286,362
2007-08	298,587
2006-07	410,343
2005-06	375,336
2004-05	357,221
2003-04	337,095
2002-03	243,596
2001-02	167,627
2000-01	275,649
1999-2000	253,171
1998-99	213,801
1997-98	185,374

[1] This total represents all overseas travel, including any accommodation and subsistence claimed. Some foreign travel, to Europe for example, may involve travel by train (such as Eurostar). It does not include any travel in the UK, which may include some air travel.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13039]

John Penrose: The total reimbursement of staff expenses and the 10 largest claims in each year since 2006 are in the table. Prior to this the information is archived after a change in the database used, and could be retrieved only at disproportionate cost.

£

Financial year	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total staff expenses	144,181.31	98,089.08	100,034.58	92,757.08
Largest claim (LC) 1	1,242.05	2,269.88	1,292.20	1,534.12
LC2	1,231.50	1,673.65	1,261	1,472.20
LC3	1,196.41	1,201.54	1,226.98	1,189.89
LC4	1,096	1,048.22	1,212.73	1,056.90
LC5	855.86	1,001.19	1,040.15	1,045.46
LC6	821.40	909.37	939.47	955.68
LC7	813.90	866.62	891.40	876.26
LC8	785.50	809.62	808.40	872.36
LC9	764.40	777	748.19	814.02
LC10	745.97	776.12	725.58	801.32

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12334]

John Penrose: In 2006-07, the Department sold one freehold property in Windsor, and the freehold title to another property to the holder of a long lease of that property. The total proceeds received were £472,000 and were retained by the Department to fund its capital programme.

In October 2005, following special legislation, the Department completed the sale of a strip of land at Kensington Palace Gardens to an adjacent freeholder for £2.5 million. The proceeds were retained by the Department. An additional Grant-in-Aid of the same value was made to the Royal Household for capital works to the Occupied Royal Palaces.

In June 2008, the Department sold the freehold site to the North of the British Library at Brill Place, Camden, London NW1 for £85 million to a consortium led by the Medical Research Council. As agreed with HM Treasury, £39.8 million of the sale proceeds was retained by the Department as "non-operating Appropriations-in-Aid" to help fund its capital programme and arms length bodies. The £45.2million balance of the sale proceeds was surrendered to the Consolidated Fund.

Our Executive Agency, The Royal Parks, has not sold land or buildings since May 2005.

The Department does not collate information on the buildings and land sold by its arm's length bodies.

Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Angus. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [13001]

John Penrose: Office space per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee for this Department has been calculated as part of the annual Office of Government Commerce Property Benchmarking exercise since 2007 and can be seen in the table. Information prior to 2007 is not available. Since hot desking was introduced at the end of March 2010 the Department is now operating at approximately 10.5 square metres per FTE.

Financial year	*Office space square metre per FTE*
2007-08	13.1
2008-09	13.2
2009-10	13.4

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [12662]

John Penrose: The average and highest daily rates paid to consultants by this Department since 2006-07 are in the table. Prior to this the information is archived after a change in the database used, and could be retrieved only at disproportionate cost.

£

Financial year	*Average daily rate*	*Highest daily rate*
2006-07	1,076	2,250
2007-08	1,186	2,588
2008-09	1,362	2,520
2009-10	975	1,300

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13020]

John Penrose: The Department spend on vacant properties in each year since 2005 is in the following table, information prior to 2005 is not available.

Financial year	*Spend on vacant properties (£)*
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	281,811
2008-09	0
2009-10	283,188

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12800]

John Penrose: The Department holds the following information relating to the purchase of office chairs. It is not possible to separate the cost of individual chairs. Information prior to 2004 is not available.

	Chairs	
	Number	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	20	9,035
2005-06	60	27,105
2006-07	346	92,742
2007-08	156	34,260
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	0	0

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12719]

John Penrose: No IT contracts awarded by the Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7564]

John Penrose: The information in the table outlines departmental expenditure on legal advice since 1997:

		£
Financial year	*Total*	*Total (excluding parliamentary Counsel)*
2009-10	2,844,419	2,536,095
2008-09	2,967,725	2,499,831
2007-08	2,695,232	2,262,809
2006-07	3,001,773	2,540,994
2005-06	2,293,400	2,293,400
2004-05	2,424,461	2,424,461
2003-04	2,679,346	2,679,346
2002-03	1,718,834	1,718,834
2001-02	999,129	999,129
2000-01	760,455	760,455
1999-2000	523,484	523,484
1998-97	485,770	485,770
1997-98	445,073	445,073

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8294]

John Penrose: The Department has no plans to relocate civil servants outside London. As part of the cross-Government review of public bodies, the Department announced in its written ministerial statement on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 59-61WS, its intention to make a number of changes to its public bodies. It also noted that further work remains to be done to finalise the details of these proposals. This includes potential options relating to the relocation or co-location of these bodies as appropriate.

Departmental NDPBs

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility on the proposals to be contained in the Public Bodies (Reform) Bill. [12508]

John Penrose: The Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies and reducing their number and cost. Following the ministerial statement our Secretary of State made on 26 July, we are currently working with the Minister for the Cabinet Office and other partners across Government to finalise proposals to reform a number of bodies. We expect to make a further announcement by the autumn.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10107]

John Penrose: All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Hospitality was provided for three events, each hosted by the Secretary of State. The breakdown of these events is shown in the table.

Month	*Event*	*Cost (£)*
May	Culture Speech	260
June	Media Speech	308
June	Tourism Speech	900

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on meals and entertainment in each year since its establishment. [11374]

John Penrose: Expenditure on entertainment is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. The amount spent by the Department on meals and entertainment each year since 1997 is outlined in the table:

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2009-10	110,024
2008-09	84,544
2007-08	75,850
2006-07	72,819
2005-06	70,535
2004-05	97,803
2003-04	90,007
2002-03	50,948

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2001-02	32,587
2000-01	51,667
1999-2000	33,318
1998-99	24,497
1997-98	15,270

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9893]

John Penrose: The DCMS resource accounts 2009-10 discloses the total above in Note 10. The accounts can be found at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7295.aspx

and Note 10 is on page 26 of Part 2.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each region of England and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12468]

John Penrose: The pension contributions incurred by this Department and its executive agency, The Royal Parks (TRP), for the last three years are in the following table. The Department's planned expenditure for 2010-11 is £3,730,000, subject to any departmental reviews. TRP 2010-11 planned expenditure on pension contributions is £813,701, based on their current budget and subject to their half year review in October.

		£
Financial year	*DCMS Pension contributions*	*TRP Pension contributions*
2007-08	3,641,863.75	602,184
2008-09	3,742,195.77	666,254
2009-10	3,742,897.30	687,875

This Department does not collate pension contributions for each arm's length body. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them by *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility. [12266]

John Penrose: This Department has not dedicated specific resource to targeting input from young people in decisions. However the opportunity is available for everyone to contribute their views by contacting the Department through several channels, including the DCMS Twitter account, as well as more traditional correspondence routes.

The Department's public bodies are responsible for developing their own decision making processes and engagement strategies. To provide information on what steps each of these bodies are taking to increase the involvement of young people would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in each (i) nation and (ii) region of the UK in each of the last five years. [12470]

John Penrose: The value of public opinion research conducted by the Department in the last five financial years can be seen in the table:

Cost of public research by year

	£
2005-06	42,700
2006-07	13,200
2007-08	176,624
2008-09	130,022
2009-10	161,846

The costs of the Department's contracts with public relations consultancies in each of the last five financial years are in the table:

	Spend (£)
2005-06	295,148
2006-07	84,600
2007-08	0
2008-09	186,495
2009-10	0

The value of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts is not broken down by nations, UK regions or by London area.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK and in each of the last five years. [12335]

John Penrose: The properties for which the Department pays rent are located in London. The net rental costs paid in the last five years are set out in the table.

Financial year	*Net rent (£000)*
2005-06	5,204
2006-07	5,984
2007-08	5,862
2008-09	5,236
2009-10	5,213

The Department holds the head leases of a number of buildings. Space that is no longer required for departmental use is let on commercial terms.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7458]

John Penrose: The amount spent by the Department on stationery since 2004 is outlined in the following table. Reliable data prior to 2004 is not available.

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2009-10	54,229
2008-09	68,380
2007-08	69,210
2006-07	110,560
2005-06	147,130
2004-05	130,300

The figures shown may include costs other than stationery. To disaggregate pure stationery costs could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7313]

John Penrose: For the financial year 2008-09, spend on away days was £28,596 and for the financial year 2009-10 spend was £47,382. These figures exclude Board and Executive Committee away days as this information was not separately identified at that time.

Prior to this period, the Department's accounting system did not record expenditure on away days separately from other staff training and development costs. To identify and summarise these costs for the period requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7583]

John Penrose: The amount spent by the Department on electricity, water and heating in each year since 2007-08 is shown in the table. Information prior to this is not available.

			£
	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating (gas)*
2009-10	282,713	11,203	35,469
2008-09	280,934	12,510	38,735
2007-08	271,478	11,178	45,221

The amount spent by the Department on telephone services in each year since 1997 is shown in the table.

	Telephone services (£)
2009-10	429,012
2008-09	409,388
2007-08	491,270
2006-07	329,721
2005-06	526,620
2004-05	464,993
2003-04	455,710
2002-03	414,913
2001-02	427,356
2000-01	592,356
1999-2000	304,500
1998-99	383,766
1997-98	447,765

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to upgrade relay transmitters across the UK so that all transmitters can receive all channels available on Freeview. [12745]

Mr Vaizey: As the independent regulator for the communications industry, Ofcom is responsible for ensuring broadcasters and transmission operators comply with their licence conditions in areas such as transmission coverage and reception, including monitoring the quality and quantity of reception received through relay transmitters.

I have therefore asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for Ceredigion and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the extent of coverage for digital radio reception in Wales; and what steps his Department is taking to increase it. [12038]

Mr Vaizey: In 2008 the Digital Radio Working Group made an assessment of the coverage of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) across the UK. The coverage figures, which are separated into coverage of the two national multiplexes and indoor and mobile coverage, for Wales are set out in the table:

DAB coverage in Wales (Percentage of population)

	BBC national multiplex[1]	Commercial national multiplex
Mobile DAB	73.6	82.2
Indoor DAB	63.3	73.5

[1] These figures do not reflect the transmitters built in Wales since 2008, which we believe have increased the BBC's coverage to mobile DAB:
79% and indoor DAB: 85%.
Source:
Digital Radio Working Croup Spectrum Report 2008

Ofcom are leading a review of future DAB coverage planning, as part of the Digital Radio Action Plan launched last month, to determine the most technically efficient way of matching DAB coverage levels to FM. Ofcom will report back to the Secretary of State with the conclusions of this process by summer 2011.

Digital Broadcasting: Thanet

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure the adequacy of the digital television broadcast signal in South Thanet constituency following the switch off of the analogue signal. [10778]

Mr Vaizey: As the independent regulator for the communications industry, Ofcom is responsible for ensuring broadcasters and transmission operators comply with their licence conditions in areas such as transmission coverage and reception.

I understand that my hon. Friend has met Ofcom, the BBC and Arqiva, the transmission company to discuss issues of digital coverage in parts of Thanet South and I have therefore asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to her direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Food: Advertising

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the advertising on television of foods high in salt, sugar or fat before 9.00 pm. [11863]

Mr Vaizey: No.

Football: South Africa

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost was of travel, accommodation and other expenses for Ministers and officials in his Department who attended the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. [8346]

John Penrose *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively, and other expenses are claimed in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

The Minister for Sport and Olympics attended the USA match and the Secretary of State and his PS attended the England *v.* Algeria match. All travelled economy class.

The total cost of flights for Ministers and officials to the World Cup in South Africa was £4808.80. Accommodation was provided by the high commissioner and as such no further costs were incurred.

Gambling Commission

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the functions of the Gambling Commission; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Gambling Commission in the latest period for which figures are available. [12388]

John Penrose: The Department reviews gambling legislation, including the functions of the Gambling Commission, on an ongoing basis. The Gambling Commission has received grant in aid for the year 2010-11 of approximately £486,000. These funds are used solely to fund the Commission's research activity and are being used to fund the delivery of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 and the collection of some additional quarterly data on gambling participation and perceptions.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the budget was of the *(a)* Gambling Commission and *(b)* National Lottery Commission in each of the last three years; and how many staff each of those bodies employed in each of those years. [12436]

John Penrose: The Gambling Commission and National Lottery Commission publish their expenditure and staff numbers in their annual reports. These are available at

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gh-about_us/annual_report_and_accounts.aspx

and

http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/publications-and-research/annual-reports

Gambling Commission: Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many members of the *(a)* Gambling Commission and *(b)* National Lottery Commission receive a salary of more than £100,000 per year. [12386]

John Penrose: The Gambling Commission and National Lottery Commission publish the remuneration of its senior managers in their annual reports. These are available at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gh-about_us/annual_report_and_accounts.aspx

and

http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/publications-and-research/annual-reports

Gaming Machines

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of increasing to £2 the maximum single stake for B3 gaming machines in amusement arcades; [12062]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of increasing to 20% the proportion of B3 machines permissible in amusement arcades. [12063]

John Penrose: On 23 June 2010, I met representatives of the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA) to discuss a range of issues affecting the gaming machine industry. This included the case for increasing to £2 the maximum single stake for B3 gaming machines and increasing to 20% the proportion of B3 machines permissible in amusement arcades as a means of helping such businesses remain competitive. I am now considering these matters in the context of the public protection objectives of the Gambling Act 2005 and hope to make an announcement shortly.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many gaming machines of each category there were in *(a)* betting shops, *(b)* bingo halls, *(c)* family entertainment centres, *(d)* adult gaming centres and *(e)* public houses, clubs and other social venues in each of the last three years. [12384]

John Penrose: This information is not held by the Department or the Gambling Commission, although industry estimates as to the total number of gaming machines available to the public in Great Britain are included in the Commission's annual report for 2006-07 and their Industry Statistics for 2007-08 and 2008-09, broken down into machine category. The report and statistics are available at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gh-about_us/annual_report_and_accounts.aspx

Gaming Machines: Coastal Areas

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the potential effects on seaside *(a)* businesses and *(b)* residents of reinstating the £2 stake for B3 amusement machines. [12418]

John Penrose: I met the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA) on 23 June 2010 where a range of issues affecting the gaming machine industry were raised, which included seaside arcades. The case for increasing B3 gaming machines to a £2 stake was also discussed. I have received no other representations on the potential effects of this proposal on seaside businesses and residents.

Heritage Protection Bill (Draft)

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what provisions of the Draft Heritage Bill 2008 are *(a)* being implemented and *(b)* are planned to be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [9468]

John Penrose: The Government are fully committed to protecting and conserving our heritage assets, and to realising the cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of the historic environment. I am currently evaluating which elements of the draft Bill have already been implemented through other mechanisms, and which might potentially still be desirable in future. I will make announcements on any conclusions I reach as soon as time permits.

Hotels

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation in each year since it was established. [11277]

John Penrose: Hotel accommodation is not separately distinguished on the DCMS finance system from other spend on UK and overseas travel and subsistence. It would not be possible therefore, to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

The total expenditure on travel and subsistence in the UK and abroad since 1997 can be seen in the following table:

Financial year	*Total £*
2009-10	303,265
2008-09	447,542
2007-08	479,413
2006-07	620,462
2005-06	691,111
2004-05	536,824
2003-04	551,217
2002-03	517,118
2001-02	431,216
2000-01	454,820
1999-2000	419,036
1998-99	317,568
1997-98	264,947

Licensing Laws: Entertainers

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will *(a)* publish the findings of and *(b)* respond to the previous administration's consultation on an exemption to the Licensing Act 2003 for small venues with a capacity of 100 hosting live performances; [12173]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on the operation of the Licensing Act 2003 with trade unions representing performers; [12174]

(3) what plans he has to review the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 affecting venues hosting live music performances; and if he will make a statement; [12175]

(4) what assessment he has made of the merits of reviewing the Licensing Act 2003 with a view to creating a portable licence for travelling performers; and if he will make a statement. [12176]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government are committed to moving quickly to reduce red tape around live music and other forms of live performances, including those by travelling performers. However we want to get this right, so I have been talking to people from the sector and from local government to get their views. I hope to bring forward proposals as soon as possible.

Responses to the live music consultation were published on 26 June 2010 and can be accessed at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7150.aspx.

Museums and Galleries: Concessions

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people have been admitted to national museums and galleries without charge since the introduction of free admission by the previous Government. [12159]

Mr Vaizey: The number of visits to DCMS sponsored museums and galleries in each year since the introduction of universal free admission in 2000-01 is shown in the table.

	Total visits
2000-01	28,898,452
2001-02	30,253,293
2002-03	33,614,558
2003-04	35,045,395
2004-05	36,094,536
2005-06	33,983,069
2006-07	39,059,875
2007-08	40,234,880
2008-09	40,291,579

Museums Libraries and Archives Council

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the responsibilities of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council are; and how he intends such responsibilities to be discharged in the future. [12103]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) Council has a range of responsibilities as the strategic and expert body for the museums, libraries and archives sectors. In particular it is responsible for administering and funding the 'Renaissance in the Regions' programme for regional museums, carries out improvement and best practice work with library authorities and has a non-statutory function to advise Government on library policy. It also has responsibility for the provision of services in relation to cultural objects on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The key functions of the MLA will be transferred to other existing organisations within the next Government spending period although no arrangements have been finalised. Officials will work with the MLA ahead of its closure to ensure the smooth transfer of key functions.

The MLA website gives further information about current programmes and activities and more details on the Renaissance programme, library advisory, improvement and best practice work and the provision of services for cultural property:

http://www.mla.gov.uk/

Corporate records, including annual reviews, business plans and funding agreements can be found at the following link:

http://www.mla.gov.uk/about/corporate/management

NDPBs: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 59-60WS, on Departmental arm's-length bodies, what the effect on Wales will be of the proposed changes to the bodies listed; and if he will make a statement. [12631]

John Penrose: As stated in the written statement of 20 July 2010, further work is being done in discussion with the bodies concerned and other interested parties to finalise the details and timings of these proposals. Where bodies are being abolished, we will look to transfer key functions to other existing bodies to support our sectors and preserve the necessary expertise.

This work is at too early a stage to say what the impact of the changes will be on Wales specifically.

As to the impact on the Barnett formula, no departmental expenditure limits (DELs) have yet been set for the years after 2010-11. DELs for the four years from 2011-12 will be set in the spending review on 20 October 2010. For 2010-11, the work is at too early a stage to firmly quantify the impact at this point.

News International

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has attended meetings as Secretary of State where representatives of BskyB or News International have been present. [12275]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As Secretary of State, I have held meetings with James Murdoch, chairman and non-executive director of BSkyB, on 28 June and Jeremy Darroch, chief executive director of BSkyB, on 21 July.

Ofcom: Expenditure

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Ofcom has spent on opinion and awareness surveys in each of the last five years. [10432]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom have provided details in the table for their total spend on opinion and awareness surveys in each of the last five years plus the budgeted spend for 2010-11.

	Total spend (£ exc. VAT)
2005-06	84,750
2006-07	150,120
2007-08	52,702
2008-09	37,040
2009-10	69,225
2010-11[1]	26,834

[1] 2010-11 budgeted spend

The spending is a fraction of Ofcom's wider consumer research programme that is necessary to support their regulatory work.

It includes research on surveys to understand the degree to which the general public understands Ofcom's role and responsibilities and the way in which critical stakeholders (regulated companies and other interested parties) believe Ofcom is performing its functions and what Ofcom can do to improve. There is also an occasional survey of MPs which also seeks to assess parliamentarians' views on how well Ofcom is performing its statutory duties as laid out by Parliament and what it can do to improve.

Olympic Games 2012

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure towns outside London which host Olympic teams receive a legacy from the London 2012 Olympic games. [11758]

Hugh Robertson: Locations across the UK stand to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the games, including through businesses winning games-related work and increased tourism. Through the hosting of events in non-London venues and the hosting of international teams in pre-games training camps, areas will have the opportunity to showcase themselves on an international stage and attract inward investment.

Over 1,300 businesses have so far won over £5 billion worth of work directly supplying the ODA; over 600 non-commercial sporting, cultural and educational programmes across the UK have been awarded an Inspire Mark; and over 12000 schools/colleges have registered for Get Set LOCOG's London 2012 Education Programme.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what conclusions reached by the International Olympic Committee as a result of its recent visit to London were reported to his Department. [12249]

Hugh Robertson: The International Olympic Committee's Coordination Commission visited a number of Olympic venues, and questioned teams across the London 2012 programme as the project moved from planning into its operational testing phase. At the end of its visit, the Coordination Commission, through their press release, highlighted the good progress made across the project—in particular the construction of venues and infrastructure, the continued support for the games from all levels of Government, LOCOG's top-class staff and its robust performance in raising the private sector funding required to stage the games.

In commending the progress to date, the International Olympic Committee's Coordination Commission emphasised the need to avoid complacency, the need for the organisers to focus on the details of the project in the upcoming testing phase, and to refine the plans over the coming months.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what facilities for the London 2012 Olympics have been completed under the Construction Programme; and which of the major venues are under construction. [12158]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has now entered its final year of the 'Big Build'—the construction of the main venues and infrastructure on the Olympic Park—and remains on track to complete the construction programme by the summer of 2011.

Two venues have been completed already—Weymouth and Portland, the venue for sailing events, and Eton Dorney, the venue for rowing and canoe events. On the Olympic Park the Primary Substation and main and deep sewer pumping stations are complete and the new Energy Centre will be operational later this year. More than half of the new bridges and underpasses for the Park are also complete.

All the major venues in the Park (Olympic Stadium, Aquatics Centre, Velodrome, Handball Arena, Basketball Arena, IBC/MBC and Olympic Village) are at advanced stages of construction, with work on Eton Manor—the last permanent venue on the Park—having commenced in June 2010.

Further information on progress of the ODA construction programme can be found in the publication Big Build: Completion Milestones to 27 July 2011 (published July 2010).

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* applications for contracts have been received and *(b)* contracts have been awarded to firms located in (i) Wales, (ii) each region of England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Northern Ireland and (v) elsewhere by the Olympic Delivery Authority. [10763]

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* Data from the Olympic Delivery Authority's eTendering system, covering procurements with an estimated value in excess of £25,000, show that a total of 4,142 tenders were received February 2007 to the end of June 2010.

Of these:

(i) Wales: 25

(ii) England total: 2,013

1. West Midlands: 98

2. East of England: 164

3. East Midlands: 74

4. London: 1,056

5. North East: 21

6. North West: 67

7. South East: 419

8. South West: 66

9. Yorkshire and Humberside: 48

(iii) Scotland: 27

(iv) Northern Ireland: 11

(v) Overseas: 53

The ODA was established in April 2006 and set up its eTendering system in February 2007. Tenders under £25,000 are not tracked through the ODA's central procurement system. To establish where firms are based for tenders before February 2007 or under £25,000 would incur disproportionate costs.

The ODA now shares eTendering system that it uses with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) and its major contractors. The ODA has advised that it is not possible to provide information that distinguishes applications for contracts to each of these organisations, the data that it has provided therefore includes responses to invitations to tenders raised by those other organisations in addition to the responses to the ODA Information on businesses that have directly supplied the ODA is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA suppliers, where the hon. Gentleman will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

http://www.london2012.com/business

In addition there are thousands more companies that have applied for and accessed opportunities through the supply chains of the tier one contractors. The ODA estimates that up to 50,000 opportunities will be generated in its supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Costs

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of hosting the London 2012 Olympics. [12851]

Hugh Robertson: The anticipated final cost of the Olympic Delivery Authority Programme is £7.261 billion, as set out in the latest London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report which was published in July 2010. This figure excludes the cost of Park Operations which are currently estimated to be around £147 million. A business case for Park Operations is expected to be considered in the autumn of 2010.

Olympic Games 2012: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations in *(a)* St Albans constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and what the monetary value of such contracts is. [6888]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses in the East of England that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

http://www.london2012.com/business

The estimated value of the contracts awarded to businesses in Hertfordshire is £646,480,257, of this the value of contracts awarded to businesses in St Albans is £2,502,774. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODAs to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which companies were awarded contracts for the construction of each of the 11 apartment blocks in the Olympic Village; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [11980]

Hugh Robertson: Bovis Lend Lease Ltd is constructing five of the 11 Olympic Village residential blocks. Of the other six blocks, two are being constructed by John Sisk and Sons Ltd, two by Galliford Try Plc, one by Ardmore Construction Ltd and one by P Elliott and Co Ltd. The value of the individual contracts is commercially confidential.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Region

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations in *(a)* North England, *(b)* Yorkshire and *(c)* Leeds; and what the monetary value of such contracts is. [12246]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses across the nations and regions that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where the hon. Gentleman will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

Here he will also find information on businesses that have won contracts in the supply chains of the ODA's contractors.

The estimated value of the contracts awarded to businesses in the North West of England is £96,156,682, the figure for businesses in the North East of England is £9,457,409 and in Yorkshire and the Humber it is £65,069,036. Of the Yorkshire and the Humber figure, £18,357,494 worth of contracts has been awarded to businesses in Leeds. These figures represent the committed spend to date, rather than the end contract value, as in many cases this will not yet be known. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many applications for contracts for the London 2010 Olympics have been received from firms located in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* the South Lanarkshire council area and *(c)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency; how many contracts have been awarded to such companies; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [11288]

Hugh Robertson: Data from the Olympic Delivery Authority's eTendering system, covering procurements with an estimated value in excess of £25,000, show that a total of 4,142 tenders were received February 2007 to the end of June 2010. 27 tenders were received from businesses registered in Scotland, of these one was from a business registered in South Lanarkshire, in the Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) was established in April 2006 and set up its eTendering system in February 2007. Tenders under £25,000 are not tracked through the ODA's central procurement system. To establish where firms are based for tenders before February 2007 or under £25,000 would incur disproportionate costs.

The ODA now shares its eTendering system with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) and its major contractors. The ODA has advised that it is not possible to provide information that distinguishes applications for contracts between these organisations; the data that it has provided therefore includes responses to invitations to tenders raised by those other organisations in addition to the responses to the ODA.

The value of contracts awarded by the ODA to businesses in Scotland to date is £22,200,816. Of this £1,798,874 has gone to businesses in South Lanarkshire, in the Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency.

The ODA is unable to release the value of individual contracts at this time as this is commercially sensitive information. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA's to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). These values represent the sums that the ODA has spent to date, rather than the end contract value, as the end contract value in many cases will not yet be known. The location of each business is determined by its registered address. The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA.

Information on businesses that have directly supplied the ODA is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

http://www.london2012.com/business

In addition there are thousands more companies that have applied for opportunities in the supply chains of the ODA's tier one contractors. The ODA estimates that up to 50,000 opportunities will be generated in its supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which companies based in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the Vale of Glamorgan have been involved in construction projects for the London 2012 Olympics. [12870]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses based in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the Vale of Glamorgan that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website, under the heading ODA Suppliers, where my hon. Friend will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

Here my hon. Friend will also find information on businesses that have won contracts in the supply chains of the ODA's contractors.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which companies based in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the Vale of Glamorgan have been contracted to participate in the operation of the London 2012 Olympics. [12871]

Hugh Robertson: London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is now procuring £700 million-worth of goods and services required for the games. While much of this procurement will be through letting a small number of large contracts, it will give rise to a large number of supply chain opportunities for companies across the UK.

LOCOG has advised that no major contracts have yet been awarded in this procurement, but there is significant interest across the nations and regions in those tenders that have been placed on the online web portal CompeteFor. CompeteFor makes these opportunities accessible to companies in all parts of the UK, including Wales.

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make financial assistance available to volunteers from Shropshire and the West Midlands at the London 2012 Olympics to travel to and from London. [11217]

Hugh Robertson: London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) launched its London 2012 'Games Makers' volunteer scheme on 27 July 2010. Accommodation and travel costs for volunteers to reach London will not be covered within the LOCOG scheme, however volunteers will be provided with a zones 1-6 travel card and refreshments when they are on-shift. There are no plans to provide central funding to LOCOG volunteers to cover these costs. However the many venues across the UK will give people the chance to get involved with the games in their own local area.

Public Libraries: Local Government Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will take steps to encourage the use of public libraries as a focal point for local authority services; [11229]

(2) if he will take steps to encourage public libraries to assess the merits of providing additional local authority services to the public. [11231]

Mr Vaizey: Libraries can and do contribute to a range of local and national Government priorities by helping people find and use printed and digital information to improve skills and increase their knowledge.

There are real opportunities for councils to respond to the deficit by using libraries and the space they provide to help deliver other public policy more efficiently. In England libraries are already providing drop-in sessions with health professionals or local police officers. In some authorities libraries are selling parking permits or renewing travel passes, providing links to employment opportunities and taking council tax payments. These connections can have positive benefits for communities and can increase efficiencies within authorities.

I have written to all local authority chief executives recently to stress how important libraries are in the current economic climate and will continue to champion the value and impact libraries can make to overcome the financial deficit with my colleagues and stakeholders across Government.

Regional Development Agencies: North East Region

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to provide assistance to tourism businesses in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tyneside and *(c)* Newcastle affected by the closure of regional development agencies. [12544]

John Penrose: Government's intention is to rebalance the economy to better enable the private sector. The introduction of local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), in place of regional development agencies (RDAs), will give councils, communities and local business a stronger role in driving enterprise and employment at local level. The recently announced Regional Growth Fund, worth £1 billion, will provide an important resource in this regard. I am working with my colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Department for Communities and Local Government, to ensure that the interests of the tourism industry are addressed in the transition from RDAs to LEPs.

S4C

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the structure and strategy of S4C as part of his Department's spending review. [12667]

Mr Vaizey: My Department will be reviewing the position of all its grant-funded public bodies as part of the spending review. S4C will naturally be considered in the review.

Shadsworth Leisure Centre

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with Blackburn council to seek to keep Shadsworth Leisure Centre open. [10548]

Hugh Robertson: This is a matter for the local authority. There is no provision for the Department to intervene in this case.

Sports: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much he estimates is available in dormant betting accounts to fund sporting facilities, as referred to in the Budget Statement. [13238]

John Penrose: It has not yet been possible to make an informed estimate of the sums that may be held in dormant betting accounts as such figures are not generally published by betting operators. The Tote has, however, previously advised that the gross figure for uncollected winnings recorded during the financial year 2008-09 was £1.04 million.

I have asked the hon. Member for Bath (Mr Foster) to compile a report for me into abandoned betting accounts and other unclaimed winnings. The report will seek to consider how much money may be left abandoned in betting accounts and the value of unclaimed winning tickets. The hon. Member for Bath will be meeting interested parties throughout the autumn to gather views and information. He expects to present his findings, along with a possible proposal of new legislation, to me by the end of the year.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12982]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Burton (Andrew Griffiths) on 27 July, *Official Report*, column 991W.

Television: Licensing

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with the BBC Trust on charges for those paying the licence fee by quarterly direct debit. [12585]

Mr Vaizey: I have no plans to do so. Under the terms of its Royal Charter, the BBC Trust is responsible for collecting the licence fee, including arrangements around the collection of payments made by direct debit.

Theatres: Repairs and Maintenance

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding the *(a)* Heritage Fund and *(b)* Arts Council England has allocated for the (i) construction of new theatres and (ii) refurbishment of existing theatres in each of the last 10 years. [12252]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England (ACE) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have supplied the information in the table on how much they allocated to constructing new theatres and refurbishing existing theatres in the last 10 years.

£

Financial year	*ACE Construction*	*ACE Refurbishment*	*HLF Construction*	*HLF Refurbishment*[1]
2000-01	1,716,106	5,790,823	0	16,616,550
2001-02	4,895,000	12,924,669	0	13,254,200
2002-03	1,180,431	4,209,167	0	25,513,600
2003-04	6,583,725	7,854,317	0	3,237,500
2004-05	68,194,856	13,467,383	0	3,819,700
2005-06	739,667	1,094,000	0	49,900
2006-07	2,480,000	4,309,430	0	2,274,350
2007-08	3,835,089	3,782,920	0	3,933,500
2008-09	0	500,000	0	45,000
2009-10	12,876,104	7,468,581	0	[2]0

[1] Grant allocated for capital works (e.g. building conservation or refurbishment) excluding the cost of activities (such as education, volunteering and community involvement).

[2] Change in HLF administrative procedures for 2009-10 for new awards means only development funding recorded.

Tourism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many persons in each *(a)* age group and *(b)* travelling to each destination holidayed abroad in each of the last two years for which information is available. [10555]

John Penrose: VisitBritain have provided a table of data advising the number of UK residents, broken down by age group and destination, who have holidayed abroad in each of the last two years.

I am arranging for copies of the information to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tourism: England

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which 10 destinations in England were most frequently visited by *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas tourists in each of the last 10 years. [10552]

John Penrose: VisitEngland advise that the 10 destinations in England that were most frequently visited by *(a)* domestic tourists between 2006 and 2009 can be found at the EnjoyEngland website links in the table:

Year	*Link*
2006	http://www.enjoyengland.com/Images/ Top%2010%20English%20Towns%202006_tcm21-170595.pdf
2007	http://www.enjoyengland.com/Images/ Top%2010%20English%20Towns%202007_tcm21-170553.pdf
2008	http://www.enjoyengland.com/Images/ Top%2020%20English%20Towns%202008_tcm21-170512.pdf
2009	http://www.enjoyengland.com/Images/ top%20towns%202009_tcm21-190501.pdf

Source:
United Kingdom Tourism Survey

Information prior to 2005 is not available in the same format and is therefore not comparable with the latest data in the table.

The 10 destinations in England that were most frequently visited by *(b)* overseas tourists in the last 10 years can be found at the VisitBritain website which lists the top 20 destinations in the UK:

http://www.visitbritain.org/Images/
Top%20Towns%20Historical_tcm139-167988.xls

Source:

International Passenger Survey (IPS)/Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Tourism: Essex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which 10 destinations in Essex were most frequently visited by *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas tourists in each of the last 10 years. [10553]

John Penrose: VisitEngland advise that the 10 destinations in Essex that were most frequently visited by *(a)* domestic tourists, between 2006 and 2009 are Colchester, Tendring, Chelmsford, Southend-on-Sea, Uttlesford, Braintree, Basildon, Thurrock, Epping Forest and Maldon[1]. These statistics are based on average number of trips over the four year period 2006-09.

VisitBritain advise that Colchester, Southend-on-Sea, Harwich and Clacton-on-Sea were most frequently visited by *(b)* overseas tourists between 2006-09[2].

Information prior to 2006 is not available in the same format and is therefore not comparable with the latest set of data.

Source:

[1] United Kingdom Tourism Survey

[2] International Passenger Survey/Office of National Statistics.

Tourism: Greater London

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which 10 destinations in the Metropolitan Police area of London were most frequently visited by *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas tourists in each of the last 10 years. [10554]

John Penrose: VisitEngland advise that the 10 destinations in the Metropolitan Police area of London that were most frequented by *(a)* domestic tourists between 2006 and 2009 are Westminster, City of London, Kensington and Chelsea, Hounslow, Camden, Croydon, Bromley, Richmond upon Thames, Wandsworth, Bexley and Barnet[1]. These statistics are based on average number of trips over the four year period 2006-09.

Information prior to 2006 is not available in the same format and is therefore not comparable with the latest set of data.

Data relating to *(b)* overseas visitors cannot be provided, as the Office for National Statistics record overseas visits to London as a single destination.

Source:

[1] United Kingdom Tourism Survey

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11706]

John Penrose: The total staff costs that the Department has paid since 1 April 2006 are set out in the table. These costs are for members of staff who are accredited trade union representatives and entitled to facility time during working hours to carry out employee relations duties and trade union activities. There are no central data available from 1997 to March 2006.

Financial year	*Total costs*
2009-10	Up to £82,460
2008-09	Up to £79,461
2007-08	Up to £75,514
2006-07	Up to £71,567

The value of facilities provided by the Department for use by trade unions since 1 April 2006 is set out in the following table. These include costs such as accommodation and IT.

Financial year	*Total costs*
2009-10	Up to £23,182
2008-09	Up to £23,182
2007-08	Up to £22,990
2006-07	Up to £22,760

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11707]

John Penrose: A Partnership Agreement between DCMS and the trade unions came into effect in April 2001. Based on the Facility Time Allocations set in the Partnership Agreement, accredited representatives spent up to 3,900 hours per annum on trade union-related activities since 2001. There are no central data from 1997 to March 2001.

We do not hold central records on the hours and days spent by civil servants e.g. line managers and HR on trade union related activities.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11708]

John Penrose: To maintain good and effective employee relations, DCMS ensures that accredited representatives have sufficient time to undertake their representative duties effectively.

A partnership agreement between DCMS and the trade unions came into effect in April 2001. Based on the facility time allocations set out in the partnership agreement, the average number of days staff spent annually since 2001 to date on trade union activities in each year is set out in the table:

Average number of days	*Number of civil servants*
5 days or fewer	0
5 to 10 days	0
10 to 15 days	7
15 to 20 days	0
20 to 25 days	5
25 days or more	2

There are no central data from 1997 to March 2001.

UK Film Council

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the responsibilities of the UK Film Council are; and how he intends such responsibilities to be discharged in the future. [12102]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The UK Film Council works alongside various partners to support the British film industry, including funding, training and promoting the UK as an international filming location and raising the profile of British films abroad.

The key mechanisms which support the UK film industry will be retained, including the system of film tax relief and lottery funding. We are considering options for some functions to be transferred to other existing bodies, with a view to reducing administrative costs.

UK Film Council: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which projects in Scotland the UK Film Council has supported in each of the last five years. [12933]

Mr Vaizey: A table providing the information requested will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12819]

John Penrose: Spend on wine is not reported separately in this Department's accounting system and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 6 September 2010

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the governing bodies of new academy schools will inherit sole responsibility for private finance initiative or local education partnership contracts previously held by the relevant local authority. [9099]

Mr Gibb: Although arrangements for each PFI school converting to academy status are specific to that school, the normal arrangement would be that the local authority's contract with the PFI contractor remains in place. The obligations of the academy trust and the local authority necessary for continued fulfilment of the contract would be contained in a new schools agreement made between the academy trust and the local authority. There would also be a principal agreement made between the local authority, the Secretary of State and the academy trust which contained indemnification for the authority in relation to various obligations of the academy trust.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism he plans to put in place for intervention in case of failure of an academy school. [10845]

Mr Gibb: We already have a range of mechanisms in place for intervention in the case of the failure of an academy. These are outlined in each academy's funding agreement and articles of association and include powers to enable the Secretary of State to appoint additional members to the governing body and ultimately to terminate the funding agreement if required. A draft model funding agreement is available on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies/supporting-documents

The Young People's Learning Agency is responsible for monitoring the performance of academies on behalf of the Secretary of State. Academies are also subject to the same Ofsted regime as maintained schools.

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education over what period schools may apply to become academy schools. [11457]

Mr Gibb: A school may register interest for academy status at any time but must submit an application to convert, to the Department, at least three months before the proposed opening date.

Primary and secondary schools that have been rated outstanding overall in their most recent Ofsted inspection are able to apply to convert to academies. The application process for other schools will open at a later date.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff of a maintained school may vote on a resolution on application for academy status proposed by the governing body. [12048]

Mr Gibb: As part of the application to convert, the school's governing body will need to pass a resolution signalling its intention to convert to an academy. The school's governing body will include representation from school staff as well as parents and the local authority. The majority of the governing body will need to be in favour of converting to an academy.

Academies: Equality

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what advice he has received on the compliance of the proposed Academies Bill with the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010. [9691]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* All the provisions of the Academies Bill comply with the Equality Act 2010.

Academies will be subject to all the private duties set out in the Equality Act, such as those applicable to schools, employers and service providers, when the Act comes into force in October 2010. This means that an academy may not discriminate against, victimise or harass any pupil or prospective pupil, employee or recipient of services, on the grounds of disability, gender reassignment, race, religion/belief, sex or sexual orientation. (Employees and recipients of services are additionally protected in relation to the characteristics of age and marriage/civil partnership.)

Furthermore, it is, and always has been, the intention to add academies to the list of bodies in Schedule 19 of the Equality Act. Including academies on the list of public authorities in Schedule 19 means that academies will also be subject to the public sector duties set out in Part 11 of the Equality Act, when they come into force in April 2011.

Academies: Faith Schools

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure the provision of a balanced curriculum for pupils in academy faith schools. [10483]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* All academies, including faith academies, are required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum satisfying the requirements of section 78 of the Education Act 2002 via their funding agreement. The academy trust must ensure that this includes English, mathematics and science.

The provision of a balanced curriculum is set out in the funding agreement. The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) is responsible for ensuring that open academies comply with their funding agreements. A model funding agreement for outstanding schools converting to academies is available to view at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what mechanism he will ensure that the selection and appointment of teachers in academy faith schools is compatible with the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010. [10485]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* All new academies, as with existing academies, will be governed by the employment provisions contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA). The SSFA permits faith schools, including faith academies, to discriminate on religious grounds in relation to certain staff and its provisions are preserved under the Equality Act 2010. Faith academies, in line with voluntary aided schools, may apply religious criteria to the appointment of teaching staff but not to non-teaching staff unless there is a genuine occupational requirement for them to be of a particular faith.

Academies: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what mechanism he will determine the level of additional funding that new academy schools will receive. [5216]

Mr Gibb: The additional funding received by new academy schools is intended to ensure that they are no better or worse off than they were as maintained schools, having regard to their additional responsibilities. It will consist of a grant to meet VAT costs, and a grant in lieu of certain local authority (LA) services. The VAT grant is calculated by using historical data on schools' expenditure to derive a typical proportion of spend that attracts VAT. The grant in lieu of LA services is calculated by dividing LA spend on those services by the relevant number of pupils in the local authority to derive a per-pupil sum. New academy schools will also receive funding for insurance and rates at actual cost.

In addition, new academy schools will also receive a grant of £25,000 to help meet the costs of conversion.

Academies: Property

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that an academy school governing body cannot sell off land, buildings or playing fields without the permission of the relevant local education authority or church representative. [9486]

Mr Gibb: Publicly funded land that is transferred to an academy by way of a lease from the local authority to the academy trust will be protected by provisions in the lease which will prevent the land from being sold or otherwise disposed of. If a freehold interest in publicly funded land is transferred to an academy, then protection against disposal would be secured via the Funding Agreement and by a restriction entered on the title.

Arrangements for land that is privately owned, for example church owned land that is used by an academy, is a matter for the parties involved and any protection in relation to selling off that land will be a matter for the parties.

Academies: School Meals

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the application of national nutritional standards for school food to academy schools. [9549]

Mr Gibb: The freedom and autonomy enjoyed by academies is crucial to enabling them to drive up standards. We believe that academies should have the freedom to respond to parental demand and provide a high standard of food that meets the needs of their pupils.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse has been of the local education partnership in each local education authority area since the Building Schools for the Future programme began. [7017]

Mr Gibb: Data on the set up costs for each Local Education Partnership (LEP) are held by individual local authorities who record costs differently. The National Audit Office (NAO) report on Building Schools for the Future (BSF) published in February 2009 concluded that the set up costs for the first LEPs were higher than they needed to be because of unavoidable delay by local authorities, extensive reliance on consultants by local authorities, large numbers of sample schemes and unnecessary alterations made to standardised documents.

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that his Department's Capital Review Team will (1) take into account the growing population in Ealing Central and Acton constituency when making decisions on school building; [8158]

(2) give priority to areas where there is a shortage of school places when allocating resources; and if he will make a statement. [8159]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2010]:* The capital review team will produce interim advice in the autumn. This will guide future spending decisions over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). Meeting demographic pressures will be a key concern for the Department in spending review negotiations.

The capital review team will look at how best to meet parental demand; make current design and procurement cost-effective and efficient; and overhaul how capital is allocated and targeted for areas where there is a shortage of school places and a growing population.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what advice his Department received on potential compensation claims from *(a)* private companies and *(b)* local authorities over the cancellation of (i) Building Schools for the Future projects and (ii) other capital projects. [10663]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State took into account advice and information from a range of sources in coming to his decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme. As was the case with the previous Government, information relating to internal discussion and advice is not normally disclosed.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whom he contacted at Wigan metropolitan borough council to discuss the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme in that area; [11065]

(2) on what date he contacted Wigan metropolitan borough council to discuss the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme in that area. [11066]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State wrote to the chief executive of Wigan borough council on 5 July. In his letter he set out the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme and the future of capital spending in schools more broadly.

The chief executive of Partnerships for Schools also wrote to the Director of Children's Services of Wigan borough council on 14 July to confirm the position for Wigan's Building Schools for the Future programme.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects on the construction industry of the ending of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [7731]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State considered wide-ranging advice from officials on the impact of his decision on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, including discussions of the impact on the construction industry.

The cancellation of BSF does not represent the end of capital investment in schools, nor opportunities for the construction industry. The review announced by the Department on 5 July 2010 will make recommendations to help shape the design of future capital investment in schools; to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Lancashire

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will compensate Lancashire county council for its expenditure incurred in relation to those elements of the Building Schools for the Future programme in Lancashire which will not now proceed. [9761]

Mr Gibb: There are no plans to compensate local authorities for expenditure incurred in relation to these elements of the Building Schools for the Future programme which will now not proceed.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: North London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the costs incurred by private sector contractors to Building Schools for the Future projects in the London borough of *(a)* Camden and *(b)* Brent to date. [8603]

Mr Gibb: Costs incurred by private sector contractors in the London boroughs of Camden and Brent for Building Schools for the Future are not held centrally.

Children: Day Care

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his Department's plans for free childcare provision, announced on 6 July 2010; by what mechanisms that provision will be made; for children of what age range that provision will be made; and what eligibility criteria applied to *(a)* married couples, *(b)* couples in civil partnerships, *(c)* single parents, *(d)* adoptive parents and *(e)* foster parents applying for assistance under that provision. [9963]

Sarah Teather: The coalition agreement is clear in its support for free nursery provision and that we want it to reach the most vulnerable families. We announced on 7 June that we will be extending free nursery education to 15 hours a week from September 2010. Funding of £340 million in this financial year has been made available to local authorities to implement the extension. As with all Government spending, decisions about future years will be taken as part of the spending review process.

The mechanism for delivery of the free entitlement is through a diverse range of providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors, funded by the local authority. It is a universal entitlement for every three and four-year-old, from the term after their third birthday, until they reach compulsory school age (the term after their fifth birthday). All children in this age group are eligible, regardless of family circumstances.

Class Sizes

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on class sizes and the Comprehensive Spending Review from *(a)* teaching associations, *(b)* teaching unions and *(c)* other representative organisations. [11044]

Tim Loughton: No recent representations have been received on class sizes in the context of the spending review from *(a)* teaching associations, *(b)* teaching unions and *(c)* other representative organisations.

Curriculum

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to enable all schools to have discretion on whether to follow the national curriculum. [11455]

Mr Gibb: All maintained schools are currently required to follow the national curriculum and we have no plans to change that requirement. Subject to the passing of the Academies Bill, academies will offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Through their Funding Agreements, they will also be required to teach English, mathematics and science. They will not, however, be required to follow the national curriculum.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within

10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11381]

Tim Loughton: The percentage of all invoices paid by the Department for Education within 10 and 30 days of receipt are shown in the following table.

Please note that our accounts payable shared service provider (the Department for Work and Pensions) does not identify small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers separately so the data represent payments to all suppliers.

			Percentage
	April	*May*	*June*
Fewer than 10 days	94.61	94.18	94.21
Fewer than 30 day	99.20	98.39	98.82

DCSF changed its arrangements for invoice processing on 2 November 2009. From that date all invoices payments to DFE suppliers are processed by the Department for Work and Pensions as part of their shared services provision.

Departmental Buildings

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of his Department's site at Mowden Hall in Darlington; and if he will make a statement. [11181]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education is currently reviewing all aspects of its administrative expenditure including the money spent on its estate. This work is being done in the context of the new policy priorities of the Government and the need to reduce administrative costs overall as part of the spending review process.

A decision is pending on whether the Department should continue its planned redevelopment of a new smaller site in Darlington town centre or remain at Mowden Hall.

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which functions are conducted by his Department at its Mowden Hall site in Darlington. [11326]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education conducts the following functions at its Mowden Hall site at Darlington:

Directorate	*Function*
Schools Directorate	School Formation and Investment Local Improvement and Performance School Standards Group School Resources
Children and Families Directorate	Early Years, Extended Schools and Special Needs Group Families Group Safeguarding Group
Young People Directorate	Workforce Group
Internal Audit	Internal Audit
Corporate Services	Chief Information Officer Group Commercial Group Communications Group Human Resources Strategic Analysis, Research and Policy Impact Group

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many employees of his Department and its predecessors attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department and its predecessors of such attendance in each such year. [9051]

Tim Loughton: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publishers of Civil Service World), who bear all of the financial risks.

The overall delegate numbers for Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were approximately 6,000, 8,000 and 7,700 respectively. Delegate registration is managed centrally by Dods. Departments do not keep a detailed record of every member of staff that attends.

Civil servants do not pay to attend Civil Service Live events. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates, which will be paid for by individual Departments. Civil servants attending the event will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by their Departments.

Departmental Contracts

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what processes are in place for competitive tendering of contracts to be let by his Department. [5510]

Tim Loughton: The Department complies with the UK Public Procurement Regulation 2006 and officials involved in the procurement process are obliged to comply with departmental procurement guidance which is based on the guidance produced by the Office of Government Commerce. This requires that all contracts are competitively tendered unless a legitimate exemption for single tendering applies. All single tenders have to be authorised by a deputy director or higher grade.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7992]

Tim Loughton: The total invoiced expenditure on the Government Car Service for the Department for Education is £68,318. This compares with a cost of £92,927.97 for the same period in 2009. Both figures relate to costs incurred from 12 May to 12 July for all car services for officials and Ministers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which categories of *(a)* contracts for the provision of services to his Department and *(b)* grants to charities made by his Department require ministerial approval. [12031]

Tim Loughton: Ministers set the policy direction of the Department which will ultimately result in spend but there is no requirement for them to approve specific categories of expenditure.

Departmental Reorganisation

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much it cost to rename the Department for Children, Schools and Families as the Department for Education. [8051]

Tim Loughton: The cost of renaming the Department was £5,250.

Education: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the change in the level of value added tax schools and colleges in Colchester constituency will be required to pay in financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [4569]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not yet assessed the implications of the recent Budget changes around VAT. It will form part of our considerations for the spending review which is now in hand.

Education: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will direct his Department's review of capital spending in schools and colleges to *(a)* examine the capital funding requirements of sixth form colleges and *(b)* make recommendations for their future funding. [10048]

Mr Gibb: The Department's review of capital spending to be conducted by Sebastian James, group operations director of DSG International plc, will review all Department for Education capital investment programmes. The review will guide future spending decisions over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15) and will look at how best to meet demand, and make current design and procurement cost effective and efficient. The review team will consult the sixth form college sector to inform its conclusions and recommendations.

Educational Psychology: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* qualified educational psychologists and *(b)* educational psychologists required in the education system. [9683]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: A report commissioned by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) in 2009 showed that there are approximately 2,200 educational psychologists employed in local authorities in England. A work force planning exercise by CWDC in 2009 showed that approximately 120 new entrants to the profession are required annually to maintain a similar sized work force and meet current local authority demand.

Faith Schools

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the proposed requirement on new faith schools to admit at least 50 per cent. of their intake without reference to faith will be on a statutory basis. [10560]

Mr Gibb: Children of any or no faith should all have access to high quality local education. New faith academies, that do not replace an existing faith predecessor school, will be required to admit at least half of their intake without reference to faith, and this policy will be given effect through each new academy's Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State, rather than through legislation.

he same requirement does not apply to any new maintained faith schools that are established. Establishment of local authority maintained schools usually follows proposals that are locally approved, following assessment of local need, including the demand for faith provision.

Foster Care

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps are taken to ensure that children removed from foster care are *(a)* enabled to say goodbye to their former foster parents and *(b)* given an explanation for their removal. [9344]

Tim Loughton: Statutory guidance makes clear the importance, whenever possible, of achieving a planned ending to a placement, with foster carers involved in preparing the child so as to ensure as gentle and sensitive a transition as possible. This includes giving the child proper time to say goodbye to his or her carer.

Children's wishes and feelings should be taken into account when decisions are made about them, including a decision to move them to a new placement, and they should be given the information they need to understand such decisions. This principle is made clear in current regulations, guidance and national minimum standards, and is being strengthened in planned revisions to national minimum standards.

A child's care plan must be reviewed whenever a significant change is proposed, such as an unexpected placement change. It is for the child's Independent Reviewing Officer to ensure that they are able to make a meaningful contribution to the review.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which units in his Department are responsible for liaison with the New Schools Network. [11976]

Mr Gibb: The strategic relationship with the New Schools Network is held by the Local Improvement and Performance Group within the Department's Schools Directorate.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department offers to parents wishing to set up a new school. [12030]

Mr Gibb: The guidance provided by the Department for Education to parents and organisations wishing to set up a free school is available at:

www.education.gov.uk/freeschools

The Department will work with those involved in setting up the first free schools to develop its guidance overtime. The New Schools Network also provides advice and support to parents and organisations who wish to set up a free school.

General Teaching Council

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* savings to the Exchequer arising from the abolition of the General Teaching Council for England in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13. [1203]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 June 2010]:* There are a number of factors which may have an impact in terms of potential cost and savings arising from the abolition of the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) over the period 2010-2013, including factors relating to the extent of any transfer of the GTCE's existing functions and GTCE staff to other bodies. The current cost of the GTCE to the exchequer is estimated to be around £16 million per year. Our aim is to introduce new arrangements for the regulation of the profession which are more cost-effective and efficient than the current system.

Higher Education: Admissions

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to continue to strengthen entry requirements for university entrance for students taking social work degrees from September 2012. [10756]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* On 2 June 2010, the Secretary of State for Education confirmed the Government's intention to take forward and build upon the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force. Among its recommendations, the task force concluded that the entry requirements for the social work degree should be strengthened.

The Social Work Reform Board is taking forward the task force's recommendations and is considering a number of approaches to improving the calibre of people embarking on the social work degree. It will put advice to Ministers on how best to strengthen the entry requirements for social work students in due course.

National Citizens Service: Morecambe

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects the National Citizens Service project to be rolled out to young people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency; and how many places he expects the project to provide in that constituency. [11601]

Tim Loughton: Specific locations for the pilot phase of the National Citizen Service (NCS) will be subject to the outcome of a competitive tendering process. Government-backed pilots for the scheme will start next summer and will provide around 10,000 places.

We began a competitive tendering exercise for organisations to deliver these pilots in early August, inviting potential providers to submit bids. Organisations are developing bids from then, and we will announce the successful candidates around the end of October. The second phase of the pilots will run in the summer of 2012, with national roll-out planned from the summer of 2013. (The scale of the programme will be subject to the spending review which concludes in autumn 2010).

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) for what period the New Schools Network has been contracted to administer initial inquiries into free schools; and when this contract was awarded to the New Schools Network; [5498]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to the New Schools Network; and what period that funding covers; [5499]

(3) for what reasons a contract has been made with an outside organisation to administer initial inquiries about free schools; [5511]

(4) what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with representatives of the New Schools Network since his appointment; [5512]

(5) what tendering process was undertaken in awarding the contract to administer initial inquiries on setting up free schools; and what organisations submitted tenders; [5513]

(6) what processes are in place to ensure value for money from the work being undertaken on behalf of the Department by New Schools Network; and what oversight his Department will have over this work; [5514]

(7) what information his Department holds on the capacity of the New Schools Network to process initial inquiries about free schools. [5566]

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department had with representatives of the New Schools Network since 12 May 2010. [5759]

Mr Gibb: The New Schools Network (NSN) is in receipt of a £500,000 grant from the Department, details of which are available here:

http://www.education.gov.uk/freeschools/~/media/Files/lacuna/freeschools/nsnletter.ash

The Department has given out similar grants in the past, such as to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and the Youth Sport Trust.

Officials meet with the NSN on a regular basis to review proposals they have received and to discuss NSN's capacity and sufficiency of resource. Ministers met with NSN representatives on 21 May, 17 June and 30 June 2010.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether his Department's payment to the New Schools Network was a *(a)* grant or *(b)* payment for provision of services; [11432]

(2) what service level agreement is in place between his Department and the New Schools Network; [11433]

(3) whether his Department's payment to the New Schools Network was subject to the Compact Commissioning Guidance; [11434]

(4) what steps he took to ensure that his Department's payment to the New Schools Network complied with the Public Contract Regulations 2006. [11435]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* On 18 June 2010 the Department agreed to enter into a £500,000 grant agreement with New Schools Network (NSN) to provide support for groups wanting to find out more about setting-up a free school. However the Department has not yet entered into a formal funding agreement with, or made any payments to, the NSN. Officials are currently developing the grant details which will take account of the relevant regulations and agreements.

Ofsted: Care Homes

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children's homes have been classified by Ofsted as *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate in each local authority area in each year since 2007. [9911]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to consult *(a)* the Church of England, *(b)* the Roman Catholic Church, *(c)* representatives of other Christian denominations and *(d)* representatives of other faith groups for the purpose of his Department's review of the (i) religious education and (ii) sex and relationships education elements of the curriculum. [11237]

Mr Gibb: We will consult with a range of groups, including representatives of faith groups as we develop our policies on religious education and sex and relationships education.

Pre-school Education

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the suspension of the code of practice on the provision of free nursery education places; and if he will make a statement. [8609]

Sarah Teather: The coalition agreement is clear in its support for free nursery provision and that we want it to reach the most vulnerable families. We announced on 7 June that we will be extending free nursery education to 15 hours a week from September 2010. As with all Government spending, decisions about future years will be taken as part of the spending review process.

The revised code of practice—which is statutory guidance on provision of free nursery education—is due to come into force in September. I am considering whether it would be helpful to review this guidance. However, current primary legislation requires local authorities to secure early years provision free of charge, whether or not there is statutory guidance in place.

Qualifications: Doncaster

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what percentage of pupils at Trinity Academy in Doncaster achieved *(a)* five or more A* to C grades, *(b)* five or more A* to C grades including English and mathematics, *(c)* two or more A* to C grades in science subjects, and *(d)* an A* to C grade in a modern foreign language at the end of key stage 4 in each year since 2006. [11641]

Mr Gibb: The figures requested are published as part of the Achievement and Attainment Tables and are available from the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

Excel spreadsheet copies of these publication files have been placed in the House Library.

Note:

The requested science indicator was introduced into these tables in 2007 and the modern foreign language indicator was introduced in 2008.

Schools: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate has been made of the number of school places which will be required in the London borough of Ealing in *(a)* 2015 and *(b)* 2020. [9555]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not estimate the number of school places which will be required in local authority areas. It is the duty of each local authority to provide a pupil place for each child of statutory school age who wants one, and to plan to provide these places.

This Department supports provision of new pupil places where needed, based on information provided by authorities. Meeting the need for the rising numbers of primary pupils will be a priority consideration for the next spending review period, informed by the outcome of the review of the Department's capital programmes which the Secretary of State announced on 5 July.

Schools: Finance

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the total net revenue balances held by education authorities in England were in each year between 1985-86 and 1999-2000. [10034]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 July 2010]:* The previous Government started to collect data on school revenue balances from 1999-2000, when net revenue balances held in schools totalled £741 million. This figure does not include maintained nursery schools—data for these were first collected in 2003-04. There are no relevant data for the years before 1999-2000.

Figures from 1999-2000 up to 2008-09, including by local authority, are available on the Section 251 website at:

www.education.gov.uk/section52

Schools: Special Educational Needs

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has reviewed the effect of its pupil premium policy on special needs provision. [10499]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium will provide additional funding to help schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. Since there is a considerable overlap between deprivation and special needs, this means that the pupil premium will help schools to provide additional support to pupils with special needs.

Schools: Standards

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of schools which had an improved Ofsted rating between their last two inspections had changed status in the intervening period. [9398]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: Just under 1% of schools that improved their rating between their last two 'section 5' inspections changed their status in the intervening period, as defined by their designated school type. This encompasses community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided schools and voluntary controlled schools.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what percentage of schools rated by Ofsted at their last inspection as *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate are (i) grammar schools, (ii) comprehensive schools and (iii) academies. [10067]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 July 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her. Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The latest period for which published figures about maintained school section 5 inspection outcomes are available is the spring term of 2009/10. This answer looks at the latest inspection judgement for those grammar, comprehensive and academy schools which were open on 21 April 2010 (taken from the Department for Education's Edubase system) and had received an inspection on or before 31 March 2010.

Tables 1 and 2 contain the information requested. These give the total number of inspections with their overall effectiveness grade as a percentage of all secondary schools and as a percentage of the national picture for all schools, which includes-primary; nursery, special school and pupil referral unit provision.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table 1: Grammar schools, comprehensive schools and academies as a proportion of all secondary schools-categorised-by their overall effectiveness

		Type of establishment							
		Grammar		Comprehensive		Academies		Other secondary[2]	
Overall effectiveness	All secondary schools[1]	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	3333	164	5	2578	77	203	1	388	17
Outstanding	625	101	16	453	72	18	3	53	8
Good	1369	56	4	1114	81	23	2	176	13
Satisfactory	1073	7	1	890	83	27	3	149	14
Inadequate	122	0	0	106	87	7	6	9	7

Table 2: Grammar schools, comprehensive schools and academies as a proportion of all schools categorised by their overall effectiveness

		Type of-establishment							
		Grammar		Comprehensive		Academies		Other establishments[3]	
Overall effectiveness	National[1]	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	22249	164	1	2578	12	203	1	388	87
Outstanding	3743	101	3	453	12	18	0	53	85
Good	11004	56	1	1114	10	23	0	176	89
Satisfactory	6694	7	0	890	1	27	0	149	86
Inadequate	550	0	0	106	19	7	1	9	80

[1] Schools yet to be inspected are excluded from the analysis so the breakdown by overall effectiveness will not add up to the national or secondary school totals.

[2] Other secondary includes all other secondary establishments inspected under section 5.

[3] Other establishments include all other education establishments inspected under section 5.

Note:

Latest inspection taken from inspections as at 31 March 2010 for schools open at 21 April 2010

Schools: Transport

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what date local authorities are obliged to produce their forthcoming plans for education transport for 16-19 year olds; and whether he plans to review such plans before they are adopted. [12017]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities are required to publish their transport policy statements each year by the end of May. It is not for central Government to review the plans, which are the statutory responsibility of local authorities, and which set out transport provision and support for young people of sixth form age.

Schools: VAT

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the value added tax paid by maintained schools in the latest year for which figures are available. [7269]

Mr Gibb: In general terms, local authorities can recover input value added tax. Maintained schools count as part of the local authority when spending local authority funds (section 49(5) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998); therefore they can recover VAT through their maintaining authority. There are a few exceptions to this rule, but we do not collect any figures so cannot make an estimate.

Schools: Visits

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions he has visited schools in Warrington since his appointment. [11746]

Tim Loughton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education has visited several schools since his appointment in May but as yet has not visited any schools in Warrington.

Secure Training Centres: Inspections

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether it is the practice of Ofsted inspectors visiting secure training centres *(a)* to have private meetings with children and *(b)* to ask such children about their experiences of (i) restraint and (ii) other uses of force. [10905]

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether Ofsted inspectors visiting secure training centres examine *(a)* medical notes following the use of restraint, *(b)* reports of the child's perspective on the use of restraint and *(c)* other documents relating to the use of restraint. [10906]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her response has been placed in the Library.

Sixth Form Colleges: Buildings

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of sixth form colleges requiring refurbishment which have not received capital funding for that purpose in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [10049]

Mr Gibb: No estimate has been made of the number of sixth form colleges requiring refurbishment which have not received capital funding for that purpose in the last 10 years.

The Department has commissioned a review of all of its capital expenditure to inform decisions about future capital investment. The review team will consult the sixth form college sector to inform its conclusions and recommendations.

All funding after this financial year is subject to the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. The review team will provide an interim report in the autumn and a final report by the end of the year that will guide future spending decisions over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15).

Sixth Form Education

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria he plans to use to assess the *(a)* educational case and *(b)* business case for new applications from secondary schools to open sixth forms. [10050]

Mr Gibb: Under current legislation, decisions on whether a secondary school can expand and open a sixth form are a matter for local determination. A statutory process must be followed and all proposals are decided under local decision making arrangements. There is no role for Ministers.

The Secretary of State retains responsibility for making any decisions relating to significant changes in academies, including in relation to new provision such as the addition of a sixth form. In making such decisions he would want to take account of any relevant factors, which might include, amongst other things, the quality of existing provision in the area and the impact of any new provision, as well as demand and support from the local community.

Teach First

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many graduates from each region have taken part in the Teach First programme. [12273]

Tim Loughton: The Teach First initiative was launched in London in 2003, extended to Manchester in 2006, the Midlands in 2007, Liverpool in 2008 and Yorkshire from 2009.

The available data relating to Teach First recruits by their home region relate to the 2008/09 academic year only, and are given in the table. Final recruitment data for 2009/10 are expected to be published in January 2011.

Recruitment to the Teach First Programme. Coverage: Government office region, England

2008/09	*Number of recruits to the Teach First Programme*
England	370
Trainee home region:	
North East	5
North West	45
Yorkshire and the Humber	15
East Midlands	15
West Midlands	55
East of England	20
London	150
South East	35
South West	15
Unknown	15

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
TDA's Teach First Database

Teachers: Employment

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the number of placements for newly qualified teachers. [9882]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education determines the number of initial teacher training places to be made available in any particular year. Officials are currently collecting the data necessary to run the models to help determine the initial teacher training places which should be made available for 2011/12 and we expect to be able to confirm the numbers to the Training and Development Agency for Schools later this year.

As determined by the modelling undertaken by the Department, there should be sufficient teaching positions available in England to enable newly qualified teachers to begin teaching and complete their induction year. It is a matter for employers to determine whether a teaching position should be offered to a newly qualified teacher.

The Department does not set targets for the number of placements in schools that will be available for teacher trainees to carry out their teaching practice. It is the responsibility of training providers to ensure that each trainee teacher has taught in at least two schools prior to the recommendation for the award of Qualified Teacher Status as part of their course provision.

Westgate School Newcastle

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the funding allocated by Newcastle's capital fund to Westgate Primary School in 2008 will continue. [10174]

Mr Gibb: Capital funding including funding for primary schools will form part of the capital review announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July. The review is scheduled to release an interim report in the autumn of 2010 and its final findings by the end of the calendar year. All funding after this financial year is subject to the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to Question 3217, on the Building Schools for the Future programme in Birmingham, tabled by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Northfield on 15 June 2010. [12093]

Mr Gibb: A response was given to the hon. Member on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 808-09W.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to answer Question *(a)* 11065 and *(b)* 11066, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, tabled by the hon. Member for Makerfield on 21 July 2010. [12671]

Mr Gibb: A response has been given to the hon. Member today.

Young People: Unemployment

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the provision of careers advice and support for young people who are not in employment, education or training in *(a)* Birmingham Erdington constituency and *(b)* Birmingham local authority area of recent reductions in area-based grant allocations to local authorities. [6894]

Mr Gibb: The savings from the Department for Education's area based grant (ABG) to local authorities are part of the local government contribution to deficit reduction in 2010-11, which represents a 3.6% cut in funding to local authorities. It will be for Birmingham local authority to consider the need for savings across all areas of its expenditure, regardless of whether the initial source of funding is formula or area based, taking account of statutory responsibilities, local priorities and of the Government's commitment to protecting front line services wherever possible. The reduction in ABG does not imply a direct cut to those services funded by the grant, which include careers advice and support for young people not in employment, education or training.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to achieve the same level of technician apprenticeships (level 3) as in Germany, Australia and France. [12182]

Mr Hayes: The coalition Government are committed to improving the quality of apprenticeships to make them better suited to the needs of employers and learners. Our strategy for sustainable growth, published in July, outlined our plans for a skilled work force including apprenticeships, particularly at Level 3 and above, to provide the growth in technician level skills that a dynamic economy needs. As other advanced industrial nations, we need to refocus on technical skills and strengthen progression routes through apprenticeships and into higher level skills and professional development.

Responding to the demand for new and high level skills is vital if we are to maintain our competitive edge. Our intention to raise the quality of apprenticeships and to build formal progression routes from apprenticeships to higher education is a step change in boosting the quality, credibility and esteem of the apprenticeships system in England.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the qualifying criteria are for small firms to obtain the £2,000 grant for taking on an apprentice; and if he will make a statement. [12587]

Mr Hayes: At present there is no national Government subsidy for employers of any size when they recruit an apprentice. I recognise the attraction of such a policy but in the context of the current fiscal climate we need to be cautious and ensure that we secure the best possible value for our apprenticeship funding.

Earlier this year the National Apprenticeship Service ran the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers, a time-limited initiative which gave 5,000 SMEs a subsidy of £2,500 for recruitment of a 16 or 17 year-old apprentice. We will want to consider the evaluation of this initiative carefully before making any decisions about future subsidies for SMEs.

However, Government do fully fund the training costs for 16-18 year old apprentices, and make a significant contribution towards the training costs for adult apprentices.

BP: Libya

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department had with (i) BP and (ii) the Government of Libya on oil drilling off the coast of Libya between July 2007 and March 2008. [12934]

Mr Prisk: There were no meetings in the period July 2007 to March 2008 between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and BP, or the Government of Libya, concerning oil drilling off the Libyan coast, at either ministerial or official level.

Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* BusinessLink and *(b)* Government Office for Science stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12836]

Mr Davey: Businesslink.gov shared a Government on-line exhibition stand at Civil Service Live 2010 with Directgov and NHS Choices. The total cost of the stand was £12,200. The Business Link contribution to this was £4,300, paid by HMRC who manage the businesslink.gov website.

The Government Office for Science shared an exhibition stand with the Office for National Statistics. The total cost of the stand was £18,700. The Government Office for Science contribution to this was £9,350.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12330]

Mr Davey: This Department and its predecessors have not sold any buildings or land since May 2005. All buildings on the core BIS Estate are leased.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, The National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26 July 2010, UIN 12330 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not sold any buildings or land since May 2005.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 9 August 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question, tabled on 26 July 2010, to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about sales of buildings and land owned by the Department and the public bodies and agencies for which it is responsible since May 2005.

Neither the National Measurement Office nor its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, have sold any land or buildings since May 2005.

Letter from John Alty, dated 23 August 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not sold any property or land in this period.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 26 August 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question UIN 12330 tabled on 26 July 2010 :To ask Her Majesty's Government which former (a) buildings and (b) land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010 and has not in the last 5 months since its creation, sold any properties.

The Learning and Skills Council - the predecessor to the Skills Funding Agency did not sell any properties in the period May 2005 - 31 March 2010 as the LSC did not own any freeholds therefore no capital receipts were ever generated.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 28 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question if he will list the former (a) buildings and (b) land of (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies, (B) agencies and (C) independent statutory bodies for which his Department is responsible which have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each (1) was at the time of sale and (2) is at current prices; and whether the money accrued was (x) retained by his Department and (y) claimed by the Treasury.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has made no sales of buildings, property or land in the last five years. The Insolvency Service does not own any current holdings of this type and will therefore not benefit from any future sales.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much office space per employee his Department and its predecessors occupied in each year since 1997. [13005]

Mr Davey: This Department does not hold information going back to 1997 centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

I refer my hon. Friend to the Office of Government Commerce 'State of the Estate' reports for 2008 and 2009, which can be found at the following link and which includes the information requested for the financial years 2007/08 and 2008/09.

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/
high_performing_property_the_state_of_the_estate_2009.asp

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many chairs his Department and its predecessors purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12804]

Mr Davey: This Department centrally held records do not split out the cost of chairs from overall furniture costs and to provide this along with information on numbers of chairs purchased would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies spent on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years. [10011]

Mr Davey: In June 2007 the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) were created from the former DTI and the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June 2009 by merging BERR and DIUS. This reply contains information relating to the former DTI, the former BERR and the former DIUS.

No money has been spent by BIS on buying search engine keywords or other forms of paid search engine marketing for the corporate website:

www.bis.gov.uk

or any of its predecessors.

In March 2010, the Department spent £3,000 on Google Adwords as part of the 'Who Gets the Tip?' campaign. No money was spent on other search engines.

The Student Finance Campaign also spent money on Google Adwords: £154,360 in 2007-08; and £85,000 in 2008-09.

In 2009-10, this campaign was superseded by the Graduate Talent Pool. £85,554 was spent on marketing this website with Google.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 15 July 2010, UIN 10011 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has never spent any money on search engine biasing.

Letter from John Alty, dated 19 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has not spent any money on search engine biasing with Google or any other search engine in the last five years.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 16 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 15 July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking about expenditure on search engine biasing either with Google or other search engines in each of the last five years.

Neither NMO nor its predecessor, the National Weights & Measures Laboratory, has spent any money on search engine biasing in any of the last five years.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 19 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 15 July (UIN 10011), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning spend on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010. Since that date we have not spent any money on search engine biasing with Google or any other search engine.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 16 July 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has asked me to reply to your question how much (a) his Department and its predecessor and (b) its agencies spent on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years.

The Insolvency Service is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Over the last five years The Service has spent no money on Google or any other search engine biasing.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) Executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each English region was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure for 2010-11 is in each case. [12466]

Mr Davey: For the central Department, expenditure on vehicles is not broken down on a regional basis and the data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. I have asked the Chief Executives of the Department's agencies to respond directly to the Member. Information on expenditure on vehicles by the Department's NDPBs is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 27 August 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 26 July 2010 (UIN 12466). To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each English region was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010 and has not in the last 5 months since its creation had an expenditure on vehicles.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 23 August 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each English region was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills incurred the following annual expenditure on vehicles in each English region in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11.

				£
	Actual 2007-08	*Actual 2008-09*	*Actual 2009-10*	*Forecast 2010-11*
Region				
East Midlands	127	0	106	163
East of England	311	49	135	209
London	9,073	11,855	4,021	4,484
North East England	278	1,179	245	378
North West England	33	541	439	675
South East England	96	88	0	0
South West England	88	259	373	575
West Midlands	1,517	5,225	1,847	2,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	0	0	0	0
Total	11,523	19,196	7,166	8,484

In all cases the vehicle expenditure relates to car or van hire for ad hoc purposes where public transport is not available or it is more economical and secure to move equipment b y this method.

Letter from Richard Sanders, dated 25 August 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 26 July 2010, to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking the annual expenditure on vehicles in each of the last three financial years and what the planned expenditure is for the 2010-11 financial year.

The National Measurement Office and its predecessor, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, spent the following on vehicles:

	£
Financial year	
2007-08	9,884.46
2008-09	7,088.71
2009-10	14,371.45

Around 78% of the above costs were fully recovered from customers that pay for NMO commercial services.

The planned expenditure on vehicles for the 2010-2011 financial year is £24,000.

Letter from John Alty, dated 23 August 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills spent the following on vehicles

	£000
2007-08	128
2008-09	114
2009-10	107
2010-11 (estimated)	105

This mainly comprised hire cars and did not include any purchases.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 29 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26 July 2010, UIN 12466 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There has been no expenditure on vehicles in any English region in the last three financial years by Companies House, and there are no plans for any in 2010-11.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9932]

Mr Davey: In total, £186,078,000 was paid as remuneration to civil servants by Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in 2009-10. This includes pay, employer pension contributions and national insurance payments, as well as any taxable benefits and non consolidated performance related payments.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12465]

Mr Davey: Pension contributions for the last three financial years plus planned expenditure for 2010-11 are given as follows for core BIS.

April to March each year	£
2007-08	26,196,959
2008-09	21,983,957
2009-10	23,738,026
2010-11	27,086,938

Notes:
1. Data for non-departmental public bodies is not included as gathering it would have incurred disproportionate cost.
2. It is not possible to split the expenditure by region.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 27 August 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question UIN 12465 tabled on 26 July 2010 to ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by (a) his Department and (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years: and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11.

We are detailing below the pensions contributions incurred by both The Skills Funding Agency which was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010 and its predecessor organisation the Learning and Skills Council.

				£
		Learning and Skills Council		*Skills Funding Agency*
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
PCSPS	22,681,829.51	23,419,088.12	23,054,144.09	14,492,968.95
Partnership	174,126.41	158,165.11	171,362.50	119,892.24
ASLC	13,997.51	12,844.20	13,622.50	8,685.57
Private pensions	29,643.77	27,240.87	27,525.72	8,634.66
Total	22,899,597.20	23,617,338.30	23,266,654.81	14,630,181.42

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 9 August 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question, tabled on 26 July 2010, to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by his Department and the public bodies and agencies for which it is responsible for each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010/11.

The National Measurement Office, and its predecessor the National Weights & Measures Laboratory, incurred the following pension contribution costs for the last three financial years:

	£
2007/08	376,060
2008/09	367,360
2009/10	486,628

Note:
The figure in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2009/10 shows £515,000 in respect of 2008/09 in order to provide a comparative figure, for Machinery of Government accounting purposes, following the move of the National Measurement System to NMO on 1 April 2009)

Planned expenditure in 2010/11 implies pension contribution costs of £508,742.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 4 August 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26 July 2010, UIN 12465, to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The costs incurred by Companies House on pension contributions in the last three financial years, and the amount of the planned expenditure for 2010/11 is as follows:

Financial year	*£000*
2007/08	4,263
2008/09	4,351
2009/10	4,361
2010/11	4,261

Letter from John Alty, dated 23 August 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26th July 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills employs staff in two locations Wales and London. The cost of pension contributions made, mainly to the Civil Service Superannuation Scheme, by the Office were:

		£000
	Wales	*London*
2010/11 (est)	5,200	220
2009/10	4,998	197
2008/09	5,486	114
2007/08	5,162	74

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 25 August 2010:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by (a) his Department and (b) each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills incurred pension contributions in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and has planned expenditure for pension contributions in 2010-11 as follows.

(A) Scotland

				£
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Scotland	128,724	132,015	135,898	139,171

Insolvency law in Scotland is partially reserved and partially devolved. Pension contributions in Scotland relate to the administration of redundancy payments and disqualification of directors.

(B) Wales

				£
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Wales	303,360	359,427	375,133	400,634

(C) Each of the English regions

£

English regions	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
East Midlands	512,697	567,901	570,992	609,807
East of England	905,788	1,044,246	1,064,000	1,129,577
London	3,703,996	3,721,694	3,591,042	3,701,363
North East England	327,990	369,387	385,371	411,568
North West England	1,327,933	1,478,765	1,511,271	1,602,776
South East England	797,029	849,611	816,070	871,545
South West England	830,821	890,230	882,440	945,659
West Midlands	1,547,604	1,994,857	2,203,067	2,486,113
Yorkshire and Humberside	703,058	785,867	780,716	833,787

(D) Northern Ireland

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0

Northern Ireland has its own insolvency regime.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of questions *(a)* for ordinary written answer, *(b)* for written answer on a named day and *(c)* tabled in the House of Lords for answer by his Department have been answered on the due date in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [12228]

Mr Davey: The Department aims to answer all House of Commons written parliamentary questions within five sitting days of the question being tabled and to provide substantive replies to named day parliamentary questions on the date specified by the Member. For House of Lords parliamentary questions the Department aims to answer within 10 calendar working days. Based on these targets, the information for parliamentary questions tabled before the summer recess is as follows[1]:

[1] For questions tabled to the Department or transferred to the Department from another Government Department.

Commons written parliamentary questions

		On time	
Due for answer	*Total tabled*	*Number*	*Percentage*
June 2010	316	230	73
July 2010	310	222	72

Commons named day parliamentary questions

		On time	
Date for answer	*Total tabled*	*Number*	*Percentage*
May 2010	5	[1]0	[1]0
June 2010	86	65	76
July 2010	95	71	75

[1] The five named day parliamentary questions received substantive answers within two sitting days from the date requested.

Lords parliamentary questions

		On time	
Date for answer	*Total tabled*	*Number*	*Percentage*
June 2010	37	37	100
July 2010	66	66	100

The Department continues to monitor performance in answering parliamentary questions in line with the previous Government's response, (7 December 2009—HC 129), to the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions.

Electric Vehicles: Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his plans are for the future of the plug-in car grant scheme for electric vehicles. [12786]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Transport announced the Government's plans for the consumer incentive for ultra-low carbon cars on 28 July 2010.

Employment Agencies: Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will undertake further consultation with the recruitment industry on the provisions of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010. [12369]

Mr Davey: The Government are aware of the different points of view expressed by various stakeholders, including the recruitment industry, about certain aspects of the Agency Workers Regulations and is currently considering the way forward.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department made of the cost to the agency worker industry of the implementation of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010; and if his Department will take steps to reduce the amount of regulation on such agencies. [12392]

Mr Davey: An impact assessment was published under the previous Government at the time of laying the Agency Workers Regulations in January 2010.

The annual costs to the private and public sector represents about 0.3% of the total UK wage bill (around £1,800 million).

The Government are aware of the different points of view expressed by various stakeholders about certain aspects of the Agency Workers Regulations and are currently considering the way forward.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect on job creation and economic recovery of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010; and if he will make a statement. [12639]

Mr Davey: An impact assessment (IA) on the Agency Workers Regulations was published when they were laid by the previous Government in January 2010. This considered a range of possible dynamic effects, including the impact on job creation. The IA noted that higher costs associated with hiring temporary agency workers may manifest themselves in terms of price (wages) and/or quantity (number of agency workers hired) adjustments, and that the nature of the effect is likely to vary by sector or occupation.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to consult with *(a)* employment agencies and *(b)* employers in advance of the implementation of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010. [12640]

Mr Davey: Two public consultations took place in 2009 under the previous Administration. The first on the policy proposals (May-June 2009) and the second on the draft regulations (October to December 2009). Employment agencies and employers responded to both consultations. The Government are aware of the different points of view expressed by various stakeholders about certain aspects of these regulations and are currently considering the way forward.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will extend the 12 week qualification period contained in the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 relating to pay and associated benefits; and if he will make a statement. [12641]

Mr Davey: The 12 week qualifying period contained in the Agency Workers Regulations is based on an agreement reached between the TUC and CBI in May 2008. Under the provisions in the directive, a member state may introduce a qualifying period only on the basis of an agreement between national level social partners.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will delay the implementation of the provisions of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010; and if he will make a statement. [12642]

Mr Davey: The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 implement the European agency workers directive and are scheduled to come into force on 1 October 2011 All member states are required to bring the directive into force by 5 December 2011. 1 October 2011 is the closest common commencement date to this deadline.

EU Grants and Loans

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has held with regional development agencies on the European regional development fund. [12779]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), has held no recent discussions with the regional development agencies (RDAs) on the European regional development fund (ERDF).

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he expects any of the European regional development fund allocations to the UK for period 2007-13 to go unspent. [12780]

Mr Prisk: The UK's allocation for the European regional development fund in the period 2007-13 is €5.4 billion and the Government expect this allocation to be fully spent by the closure of the programmes in 2015.

However a number of factors may prevent this allocation from being fully spent such as variations in the exchange rate or the presence of irregularities in projects. Progress in meeting the spend targets will be monitored throughout the programme period.

Football: Insolvency

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to retain Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs preferential creditor status in cases involving insolvent football clubs. [12501]

Mr Davey: The Government have no plans to add any creditor to those currently considered preferential in an insolvency proceeding.

Further Education: Finance

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of funding for further education colleges was provided from *(a)* central Government, *(b)* local government and *(c)* other sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [12973]

Mr Hayes: Since 1 April 2010, the Skills Funding Agency, an Executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), has responsibility for allocating funding to Further Education (FE) colleges and other training organisations for the delivery of post-19 FE and skills provision.

FE colleges may also receive funding for 16-18 FE and Skills provision, Higher Education and programmes for the unemployed from central Government. In addition they may receive funding from local authorities and European Social Funds. As autonomous bodies colleges also receive private funding from individuals and employers.

Each FE College is required to publish a set of annual accounts, which can be found on the Skills Funding Agency website:

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/

The most recent data available are for the academic year 2008/09, when the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) was the major funding body for both 16-18 and 19+ FE. The online figures for this year show that income across listed FE colleges which was recorded as "total funding bodies and government agencies income" was £6.3 billion. A total of £82 million was invested in FE colleges by "local authorities and schools," while "total other" college income was £465 million.

Industrial Disputes

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many industrial action ballots were held by organisations in *(a)* the private sector, *(b)* the public sector and *(c)* each category of the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification in each year since 1990; how many union members were (i) in favour and (ii) against industrial action in each case; what proportion of the (A) eligible union membership and (B) total workforce these figures represents; and if he will make a statement. [12920]

Mr Davey: There is no requirement for trade unions or others to report such information to the Government; therefore the Government do not possess these figures.

Internet: Public Libraries

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what account he took of the Government's digital inclusion agenda in formulating his policy on free internet access in public libraries; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of that policy on levels of public access to high speed broadband internet services. [9933]

Mr Vaizey: Government recently decided not to constrain local authorities' spending decisions by pursuing the commitment to deliver entirely free internet access in all public libraries which was set out in the Public Library Modernisation Review Policy statement published in March 2010. Library authorities need as much freedom as possible when deciding how to spend their budgets and they should be free to pursue the initiatives that are suitable for their community.

However, public libraries have been embracing their digital role and helping people navigate through digital as well as printed information for many years. 79% of library services in England provide free internet access and a further 12% charge nothing for the first hour (91% of the total). The availability of this low cost internet access in every community will be vital to Race Online's mission to build a UK of near-universal web literacy by the time of the Olympics and get everyone of working-age online by the end of this Parliament.

The library promise to support Race Online by introducing 500,000 people to the internet for the first time will be a perfect opportunity to prove that free or low cost internet access and support to get online in libraries can be instrumental in closing the digital divide.

Internet: Regulation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to require internet providers to identify individuals who leave derogatory or insulting comments about others on internet sites; under what legislation the internet in the United Kingdom is regulated; what changes are proposed; and if he will make a statement. [12226]

Mr Vaizey: United Kingdom law, including the laws of defamation and libel, does not differentiate between the online and offline environment. What is unlawful offline is unlawful online. Citizens who believe they have suffered derogatory or insulting comments online are able to take civil action to seek redress.

The Government have issued a Call for Evidence on the European Data Protection Directive and the Data Protection Act 1998 to ensure that there are safeguards for people's personal data. The Call for Evidence, which closes on 6 October 2010, will enable interested parties to inform the Government as to the adequacy of the current data protection laws. The information will then be assessed and used to inform the United Kingdom's position in negotiations on a new EU instrument for data protection. These are expected to commence in 2011.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills under what legislation file sharing is regulated; what changes to such legislation are planned during the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [12227]

Mr Vaizey: File-sharing technology is, of course, entirely legal; it is its use to unlawfully share copyright material which is addressed within the Digital Economy Act 2010. The Act sets out two obligations to tackle online copyright infringement. The obligations set out in sections 3-8 will be imposed on internet service providers (ISPs) to send notifications to subscribers alleged by right holders to be infringing copyright and to record the number of notifications with which each subscriber is associated and make this data available to right holders, without revealing the identities of the subscribers on request.

The second obligation will allow the rights holder to apply for a court order to get access to the name and address of the serious repeat infringers, in order to target legal action against them.

These measures will only take practical effect once a code has been approved by Ofcom and Parliament. We expect these measures to make a significant difference to the level of unlawful file-sharing, and so have no current plans to make any changes in the next two years.

Manufacturing Advisory Group

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Manufacturing Advisory Group. [12970]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government recognise the importance of manufacturing to the UK. We believe it is key to engage with industry through individual sector stakeholder groups and we are actively involved in fora such as the Automotive Council, to ensure that Government and industry can respond together to the challenges facing industry. Therefore, we have decided not to continue with the Ad Hoc Ministerial Advisory Group on Manufacturing.

Minimum Wage

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who have received an increase in wages consequent on each uprating of the national minimum wage since its implementation. [12251]

Mr Davey: The Low Pay Commission (LPC) estimates that around 970,000 workers stand to benefit from the October 2010 uprating of the NMW. Similarly, BIS estimates that around one million jobs have had their pay increased each year because of annual upratings of the National Minimum Wage (NMW).

It is not possible to add up the number of potential beneficiaries of the NMW over the years since its implementation because consecutive years' figures may include many of the same people. However, over time people move in and out of jobs and progress up the pay scale so new individuals will be affected by the NMW every year. Therefore the total number of people to have benefited from an increase in wages due to upratings in the NMW since 1999 is likely to considerably exceed one million.

Nanotechnology: Cosmetics

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on health of the use of *(a)* nanomaterials and *(b)* C60 fullerenes in cosmetic products; what account was taken of the findings of the (i) EU Scientific Committee on Consumer Products in 2008 and (ii) Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 2007 in making such an assessment; and if he will make a statement. [12080]

Mr Davey: The Department has made no such assessment.

Cosmetics are regulated under the Cosmetic Product (Safety) Regulations 2008 and while nanomaterials are not specifically mentioned, all products are required to undergo a safety assessment which has to take into account, among other things the particle size of ingredients. A new European Regulation which comes fully into force in July 2013 will require all new cosmetic products to be notified to the European Commission six months prior to being placed on the market and this notification will include a section on nanoparticles. The report shall include the identification of the nanomaterial, the size of particles, physical and chemical properties; an estimate of the quantity of nanomaterial intended to be placed on the market per year; the toxicological profile and the safety data foreseeable exposure conditions relating to the category of cosmetic product.

National Composites Centre

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has allocated for the development of supply-chain capability in the National Composites Centre in 2010-11. [12785]

Mr Prisk: BIS has provided £16 million to build the National Composites Centre and has provided a further £6 million for a Composites Grand Challenge to develop innovative ways to make composite structures quickly and cost effectively.

Any further BIS spending on composite initiatives will be subject to the Spending Review.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his officials have had with the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters on the proposal by Camelot to enter the bill payment and mobile telephone market; and if he will make a statement. [12532]

Mr Davey: My officials were briefed by the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters on their views and response to the consultation on the Camelot proposal to provide commercial services through lottery terminals. These discussions took place prior to the National Lottery Commission's provisional decision on 16 July not to give consent to the Camelot proposal.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made by Post Office Ltd., Camelot and the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters on the application by Camelot for a licence to provide commercial services, including bill payments and mobile phone top-ups, with a view to enabling the proposed new bill payment service to be provided through Post Office Ltd.; and if he will make a statement. [12787]

Mr Davey: The National Lottery Commission announced on 16 July that it had reached a provisional decision not to give consent to Camelot's application as there is a significant risk of it breaching EU/Competition law. The Commission is giving all parties the opportunity to make any final representations on this provisional decision by 3 September 2010.

Post Offices: Finance

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to provide a level of subsidy to the Post Office which will ensure no reduction in the number of post office branches beyond 2011. [12218]

Mr Davey: The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices in the communities they serve and have made clear they will not repeat the closure programmes of the previous Government. We are also committed to making a social network payment of £180 million to support the network at around its present size in 2011-12, subject to state aid clearance from the European Commission.

Public Sector: Procurement

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to assist small businesses to participate in the tendering process for public sector services. [12598]

Mr Prisk: Improving public procurement processes to ensure fair access for small businesses is a priority for the Government. The coalition agreement announced our aspiration that 25% of Government contracts should be awarded to small and medium sized businesses.

Officials are developing a programme of activity and details will be announced in due course.

Regional Development Agencies

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has issued guidance to regional development agencies on public expenditure since the publication of the coalition agreement; and if he will make a statement. [7532]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Development Agencies each have a Financial Accountability Framework which sets out their main financial duties.

Since the publication of the coalition document we have written to each of the RDAs detailing the reductions in RDA budgets for 2010-11 and highlighting the requirements for new spending prior to and beyond March 2011, the latter to be approved by BIS and HM Treasury.

This Department has also written recently to all its arms-length bodies with regard to new arrangements in relation to consultancy and marketing expenditure.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any powers exercised by regional development agencies (RDAs) will be transferred to central Government upon abolition of RDAs. [12051]

Mr Prisk: We are reviewing all the functions of the RDAs. We believe some of these are best led nationally, such as inward investment, sector leadership, responsibility for business support, innovation, and access to finance, such as venture capital funds. Some of the RDAs existing roles are being scrapped, such as Regional Strategies. The forthcoming White Paper on sub-national economic growth will set out our approach in more detail.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that funding under the Regional Growth Fund is prioritised for regions and areas with greater economic needs. [12054]

Mr Prisk: The consultation on the Regional Growth Fund was launched on 23 July and closes on 6 September. Criteria to be applied to ensure that the Fund achieves its main objectives will be set out, following the consultation, in the White Paper on sub-national growth, which will be published in the autumn.

The objectives of the Growth Fund are:

To stimulate enterprise by providing support for projects with significant potential for economic growth and create additional sustainable private sector employment; and

To support in particular those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector led growth and prosperity.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which powers exercised by regional development agencies he plans to transfer to local enterprise partnerships. [12061]

Mr Prisk: No decisions have been taken as yet regarding which functions previously carried out by the regional development agencies will move over to local enterprise partnerships.

Sector Skills Councils

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to reform sector skills councils; and whether he will reduce the number of such councils. [12181]

Mr Hayes: The coalition Government believe in a strong employer role and voice in the skills system, and that this is best organised at sectoral level. Sector skills councils have a crucial role in all aspects of our skills policy, including apprenticeships. We will continue to empower them as the voice of employers in the skills system—and to challenge them to perform with maximum effectiveness. The number of SSCs should be for employers to determine, taking account of the structure of the economy and the need to resource effectively. The coalition Government will welcome any proposals from employers to merge or rationalise SSCs were this is in the best of interests of their sectors.

Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to support industries that rely on the protection of intellectual property following the decision to close the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property; and if he will make a statement. [12854]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) continues to promote innovation by providing a clear, accessible and widely understood intellectual property (IP) framework so that creators, users and consumers can benefit from knowledge and ideas. The IPO supports industry by granting robust IP rights and further through business support activities such as IP education programmes.

The Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (SABIP) which was formally established on 2 June 2008 provided Government with independent, strategic, evidence based advice on IP. Following the decision to dissolve SABIP, the sponsoring agency, the IPO, consolidated key IPO and SABIP research into one programme. The combined work is designed to bring together existing sources of data on IP rights, linking them to economic data to develop a definitive information base with direct relevance to policy evaluation.

During 2010/11 this evidence will be used to answer the following questions:

How much does UK industry spend creating IP protected by IPRs, and what does this investment deliver?

How big is investment in the copyright economy, who earns what from it and how are value chains affected by digital media?

Do patents add value to R&D—how much, and in which industries/markets?

Which firms make money out of IP and innovation without patents, and how?

Do trademarks help innovation and growth—and which firms win from branding?

Why is UK design a major success despite using few registered rights?

Are EU copyright levies a useful reward system or distortion of the market?

Can patent markets create depth and transparency to benefit innovators?

Research partners will help the IPO bring together data on business use of IP rights, innovation and business performance, creating a knowledge base that other researchers and policy analysts will be able to access, use and develop. All the research reports will be published. I do not intend to make any further statements.

Telephone Services

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many telephone lines are in use in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* each region of England and (d) Northern Ireland; and how many such lines are broadband lines. [12287]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not gather or keep such statistics. Ofcom's Communications Market Report 2010 reports that in 2009 the number of fixed telephone lines in the UK was 32.1 million. Ofcom's Technology Tracker Q1 (January to February 2010 fieldwork) for fixed line telephone and fixed broadband penetration (proportion of households with each service) indicated that in the UK, 85% of households had a fixed line, (some 27.3 million lines) and 65% of households had fixed broadband (some 20.9 million lines). The Technology Tracker also records the following country and regional information by household:

Percentage

	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*N. Ireland*
Fixed line	86	79	79	81
Fixed broadband	66	54	57	62

Percentage

	London	*South East*	*South West*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*
Fixed Line	84	92	90	85	88	92
Fixed broadband	63	74	72	69	58	72

Percentage

	Yorkshire/ Humberside	*North East*	*North West*
Fixed line	84	82	82
Fixed broadband	64	63	60

Tobacco

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had since 7 May 2010 with representatives of those engaged in the manufacture and sale of tobacco products; what the (i) nature and (ii) subject of those meetings was; and if he will make a statement. [12137]

Mr Davey: BIS officials have met once with tobacco manufacturers since 7 May to discuss the proposed EU Reference Standard in respect of 'low ignition propensity' cigarettes. BIS officials have also met on one occasion since 7 May with tobacco retailers to discuss the forthcoming tobacco display ban. There have been no other meetings between BIS officials or Ministers with tobacco manufacturers or retailers other than the Secretary of State for Business meeting with retailers in his own constituency. However there may have been other meetings between officials and retailers (some of which sell tobacco products) because the Department has regular contact with retailers on a variety of business issues.

Trade Competitiveness

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to seek to ensure that by 2020 the UK will be in the top eight Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries for skills, employment and productivity performance; and if he will make a statement. [12142]

Mr Prisk: In 'A Strategy for Sustainable Growth', published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in July, the Government state that, by strengthening macroeconomic fundamentals and providing a strong framework for business and growth, they aim to increase productivity through skills, innovation, ICT diffusion and new firm start-ups. We are in the process of further developing this strategy to improve the UK's performance.

We want to build an internationally competitive skills base. We have already begun the process of reforming the further education and skills system by refocusing funding on 50,000 extra apprenticeship places, and putting measures in place to free colleges and training organisations from unnecessary bureaucracy. But we want to go further, to redesign the system so it places power and responsibility in the hands of learners and employers, and supports the vision for a "Big Society". We are therefore consulting on the future direction of skills policy, including how to measure how well employers and the skills system are progressing in meeting our priorities.

On productivity, between 1998 and 2008, the UK closed the productivity (as measured by output per worker) gap with Germany and narrowed the gap with France, and broadly kept pace with the US. Over the same period, the gap in productivity in terms of output per hour worked has also narrowed with Germany, though remained broadly unchanged with both France and the US.

On employment, the latest comparable data (2009) show the UK's employment rate is 70.6% compared with an OECD average of 64.8% in 2009. We seek to support a flexible labour market. We also recognise the continuing need to provide strong employment support to those that are out of work.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much his Department and its predecessors has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department and its predecessor for use by trade unions in each year since 1997; [11685]

(2) how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997; [11686]

(3) how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11687]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 6 June 2009 by merging the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) with the Department for

Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Records of trade union related activities are therefore not available for 2009/10 or before the merger.

The trade unions represented within this Department are: FDA, Prospect and PCS. Since the formation of BIS in 2009, no money has been paid to any of the three trade unions recognised for collective bargaining in BIS.

BIS currently employs 3.0 full-time departmental Trade Union Side Officers at an approximate cost of £90,000. Across BIS a number of staff have small facilities time allocations. More details on this can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

This Department provides office facilities within its buildings at 1 Victoria Street, London and at St Paul's Place in Sheffield for the use of the Trade Union Side. The current cost per annum of providing this space is £26,205. As a consequence of the Department's formation, it operates two IT contracts with different service components and differing charging regimes that are in the process of being unified. Currently it is not possible to separate the costs sufficiently to respond accurately to this specific request.

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the workforce *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each region are members of a trade union in (i) the public and (ii) the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [12959]

Mr Davey: The following table provides the proportion of employees who are trade union members, the trade union density by gender, region and sector for the latest period available. This information is self-reported by respondents to the Office of National Statistics' Labour Force Survey.

Table: Trade union density by gender, region and sector, 2009 Q4

Percentage not seasonally adjusted

				Gender	
Country	*Region*	*Sector*	*All*	*Male*	*Female*
United Kingdom		All employees	27.4	25.2	29.5
		Private	15.1	17.2	12.4
		Public	56.6	56.2	56.8
England		All employees	26.1	24.3	27.9
		Private	14.5	16.6	11.8
		Public	54.9	55.0	54.8
	North East	All employees	35.7	35.7	35.8
		Private	21.3	26.4	14.6
		Public	62.8	63.3	62.5
	North West	All employees	32.1	29.7	34.6
		Private	17.2	19.4	14.3
		Public	64.3	66.6	63.1
	Yorkshire and the Humber	All employees	28.7	27.3	30.2
		Private	16.8	19.5	13.3
		Public	56.8	57.7	56.4
	East Midlands	All employees	26.4	24.5	28.3
		Private	15.2	17.1	12.8
		Public	55.3	56.6	54.6
	West Midlands	All employees	28.1	26.3	29.8
		Private	16.2	19.7	11.6
		Public	57.6	56.4	58.1
	East of England	All employees	22.8	20.9	24.7
		Private	12.6	14.5	10.1
		Public	49.4	48.7	49.7
	London	All employees	21.5	19.2	24.0
		Private	11.0	11.9	9.7
		Public	49.8	48.3	50.8
	South East	All employees	21.9	20.3	23.5
		Private	11.6	12.7	10.2
		Public	51.0	53.5	49.6
	South West	All employees	26.0	24.9	27.0
		Private	15.8	18.5	12.6
		Public	50.7	47.7	52.3
Wales		All employees	35.4	31.1	39.3
		Private	18.3	19.7	16.6
		Public	64.5	62.3	65.7
Scotland		All employees	31.8	28.4	35.2
		Private	16.8	18.8	14.1
		Public	63.2	61.0	64.4
Northern Ireland		All employees	39.9	35.4	44.0
		Private	25.3	27.0	23.0
		Public	65.6	62.0	67.4

Source:
Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

More detailed information on trade union membership statistics can be found on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/employment-matters/research/trade-union-stats

Trade Unions: Finance

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments have been made to trades unions through the *(a)* Partnership At Work and *(b)* Strategic Partnership Fund in each financial year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [12651]

Mr Davey: The following table provides the payments and commitments made to trade unions through the *(a)* Partnership at Work fund *(b)* Strategic Partnership Fund in each financial year during their lifetimes.

(a) Funds committed to unions 2000-03

Union	*Purpose*	*Year in which commitment made*	*Amount given (£)*
AEEU	Partnership Fund	2000	49,912
Amicus	Partnership fund	2002	47,360

(a) Funds committed to unions 2000-03

Union	*Purpose*	*Year in which commitment made*	*Amount given (£)*
Community and Youth Workers Union	Partnership Fund	2000	50,000
MSF	Partnership Fund	2000	20,000
MSF	Partnership Fund	2000	30,000
MSF	Partnership fund	2000	26,405
Numast	Partnership Fund	2002	36,800
Royal College of Midwives	Partnership Fund	2000	34,000
Royal College of Nursing	Partnership Fund	2002	18,650
Scottish TUC	Partnership Fund	2000	37,575
TGWU	Partnership Fund	2001	50,000
TGWU	Partnership Fund	2002	42,276
TUC	Partnership Fund	2000	14,450
TUC	Partnership Fund	2000	24,300
TUC	Partnership Fund	2002	43,015
Unison	Partnership Fund	2000	32,500
Unison	Partnership Fund	2000	13,440
Unison	Partnership fund	2000	50,000
Unison	Partnership Fund	2001	14,000
Unison	Partnership Fund	2003	50,000

Note:
Annual breakdowns of the expenditure before 2004 are not available, so we have provided details of commitments made to individual unions.

(b) Funds paid to unions, 2005-08

Union	*Purpose*	£
Year ended 31 March 2005:		
Amicus	Strategic Partnership Fund	37,592
GMB	Strategic Partnership Fund	96,871
GPMU	Strategic Partnership Fund	3,880
TUC	Strategic Partnership Fund	26,472
TUC	Strategic Partnership Fund	12,544
UCATT	Strategic Partnership Fund	61,045
Year ended 31 March 2006:		
Amicus	Strategic Partnership Fund	261,381
GMB	Strategic Partnership Fund	108,000
TUC	Strategic Partnership Fund	21,512
TUC	Strategic Partnership Fund	34,270
UCATT	Strategic Partnership Fund	69,898
Year ended 31 March 2007:		
GMB	Strategic Partnership Fund	15,000
TUC	Strategic Partnership Fund	68,000
UCATT	Strategic Partnership Fund	4,443
Year ended 31 March 2008:		
Amicus	Strategic Partnership Fund	286,881.41
PCS	Strategic Partnership Fund	17,500

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments have been awarded to trade unions through the union learning fund in each financial year since the fund was established; and if he will make a statement. [12773]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) currently provides funding to support the union learning fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation, which administers the Fund on behalf of the Department. The main purpose of this budget is to enable trade unions and union learning representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning and raise skill levels in the workplace. All ULF projects are bound by contracts with defined learning targets and outcomes.

Since the introduction of ULF in 1998 annual expenditure in each financial year has been as follows:

	£ million
1998-99	1.7
1999-2000	3.1
2000-01	3.9
2001-02	6.3
2002-03	7.4
2003-04	12.2
2004-05	14.4
2005-06	15.4
2006-07	16.9
2007-08	18.4
2008-09	21.4
2009-10	21.5

Unions and their ULRs play a significant role in helping adults, particularly those who are poorly qualified and with no background in continuing their education, to become engaged and more confident with learning and improve their skills. In 2009-10 over 233,000 learners in workplaces across the country were helped back into learning by the union learning fund and union learning representatives.

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments were made to trade unions through the union modernisation fund in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [12926]

Mr Davey: The information on how much has been paid to each trade union from the union modernisation fund in 2009-10 is as follows:

FY April 2009-March 2010	£
ACCORD	30,587.50
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	38,976.25
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	35,962.40
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	3,877.50
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union	134,167.41
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	19,951.00
Communication Workers Union	13,237.65
Communication Workers Union	37,746. 86
Equity	14,104.38
First Division Association	97,837
General Federation of Trade Unions	32,259.18
General Federation of Trade Unions	53,978.98
GMB	63,937.54
Musicians Union	15,284.00
National Union of Journalists	5,814.00
National Union of Schoolmasters, Union of Women Teachers	28,385.00
National Union of Teachers	32,916.99
Nautilus UK	6,834.31
PCS—Equality reps	57,062.68
Trade Union Congress	109,508.33
Trades Union Congress	52,683.23
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	11,496.28
Unison	79,543.50
Unison	16,835.78
Unison	106,997.01
Unite (Amicus)	89,217.79
Unite (T&G)	88,302.00
Unite (T&G)	78,077.35
USDAW	26,938.50
Wales TUC	44,705.00
Total	1,389,478.54

We have recently decided to publish the financial data of funds committed and paid to each union for rounds one and two of the UMF. This is now available on the BIS website from:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/employment-matters/strategies/umf

Equivalent information on round three will be published in due course.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce the new Chair of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. [12143]

Mr Hayes: I hope to announce the appointment of a new Chair for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills by the end of October.

Union Modernisation Fund

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 411-12W, on the union modernisation fund, (1) how much each member of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board claimed in expenses under each category in each year since 2005-06; [12032]

(2) where each Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board meeting was held; who attended each meeting; what the cost to the public purse of each meeting was; and what the Board's remit is. [12033]

Mr Davey: I shall take these questions together.

The remit of the UMF Supervisory Board, established following a public consultation, is as follows:

> The Board will advise Ministers on the projects which they consider should be supported by the Fund in each bid round in the light of their assessment against the selection criteria.
>
> At the request of Ministers, the Board will advise Ministers on matters relating to the performance or operation of the Fund, including its future development.
>
> The final authority for approving bids rests with Ministers.
>
> Where Ministers do not follow the recommendations of the Board in full, they must give to the Board their reasons.
>
> The Board will be advised and supported by DTI (now BIS) officials. Subject to this, the Board is responsible for determining its own procedures, including protocol in cases of possible conflicts of interest.

The Board has met three times, with the following attendees, to review bids to the union modernisation fund:

Attendees

23-24 November 2005

Sir Bill Connor
Judith Hackitt
Daniel Carrigan
Adrian Askew
William Brown
David Metcalf
Jeannie Drake

2-3 July 2007

Sir Bill Connor
Daniell Carrigan
Adrian Askew
William Brown
David Metcalf
Jeannie Drake
Bruce Warman

21 July 2009

Sir Bill Connor
Adrian Askew
William Brown
Jeannie Drake
David Lebrecht
David Gordon

Also in attendance at each meeting was a small secretariat.

The cost and location of each meeting of the Supervisory Board was as follows:

Meeting of 23-24 November 2005 was held at:

Hotel Russell
Russell Square
London, WC1B

The cost for this meeting was £4,265.46

Meeting of 2-3 July 2007 was held at:

City Inn
30 Islip Street
London, SW1P

The cost for this meeting was £4,708.09

Meeting of 21 July 2009 was held at:

City Inn,
30 Islip Street,
London, SW1P

The cost to for this meeting was £3602.03

The following table lists the expenses claimed by each member of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board under each category in each year since 2005/06.

£

Member	*Daily fees*	*Air fares*	*Taxis*	*Rail Fares*	*Mileage*	*Holds*	*Subsistence*	*Total*
April 2005 to March 2006								
Sir Bill Connor	1,500.00	—	—	50.00	50.00	—	148.78	1,748.78
Adrian Askew	1,000.00	—	—	—	—	—	75.78	1,075.78
Professor William Brown	1,000.00	—	—	24.90	—	—	145.90	1,170.80
Daniel Carrigan	1,400.00	—	—	—	—	—	126.98	1,526.98
Jeannie Drake	1,000.00	—	—	—	—	—	75.78	1,075.78
Judith Hackitt	1,200.00	—	—	—	—	—	101.38	1,301.38
David Metcalf	1,050.00	—	—	—	—	—	3.71	1,053.71
Total								8,953.21
April 2006 to March 2007								
Sir Bill Connor	1,000.00	—	38.00	876.30	350.00	152.00	272.14	2,688.44
Adrian Askew	200.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	200.00
Professor William Brown	200.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	200.00
Daniel Carrigan		532.80	8.00	27.50	37.60	—	—	605.90
Jeannie Drake	200.00	—	13.00	—	—	—	—	213.00
David Metcalf	—	—	22.00	—	—	—	—	22.00
Bruce Warman	200.00	—	—	27.20	2.00	—	—	229.20
Total								4,158.54
April 2007 to March 2008								
Sir Bill Connor	1,250.00	—	31.50	1,891.84	264.80	215.34	151.32	3,804.80
Adrian Askew	800.00	—	—	—	—	—	46.72	846.72
Professor William Brown	800.00	—	14.40	34.35	—	—	46.72	895.47
Daniel Carrigan	1,300.00	527.20	33.00	8.00	17.60	—	71.19	1,956.99
Jeannie Drake	800.00	—	—	8.00	—	—	46.72	854.72
David Metcalf	800.00	—	43.00	—	—	—	46.72	889.72
Bruce Warman	800.00	—	—	26.60	58.00	—	9.60	894.20
Total								10,142.68
April 2008 to March 2009								
Sir Bill Connor	1,000.00	—	62.60	469.90	476.40	58.68	385.77	2,453.35
Adrian Askew	200.00	—	11.00	—	—	—	14.05	225.05
Professor William Brown	200.00	—	—	32.40	—	—	—	232.40
Daniel Carrigan	400.00	272.60	4.00	19.50	17.60	—	53.90	767.60
Jeannie Drake	200.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	200.00
Bruce Warman	200.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	200.00
Total								4,078.40
April 2009 to March 2010								
Sir Bill Connor	1,750.00	—	8.00	827.70	578.00	167.00	198.17	3,528.87

Member	*Daily fees*	*Air fares*	*Taxis*	*Rail Fares*	*Mileage*	*Holds*	*Subsistence*	£ *Total*
Adrian Askew	600 00	—	—	—	—	—	15.87	615.87
Professor William Brown	800.00	—	—	43.00	—	—	15.87	858.87
Daniel Carrigan	400.00	230.60	8.00	—	17.60	—	50.95	707.15
Jeannie Drake	800.00	—	—	—	—	—	15.87	815.87
Bruce Warman	900.00	—	—	5.00	1.20	—	3.07	909.27
Professor David Gordon	700.00	—	14.30	127.50	55.50	—	43.47	940.47
David Lebrecht	800.00	—	—	—	400.00	—	246.27	1,446.27
Total								9,822.94

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on Wales of his Department's planned spending reductions. [8988]

Mr Davey: No departmental expenditure limits (DELs) have yet been set for the financial years beyond 2010-11. DELs for the four years from 2011-12 will be set in the spending review on 20 October 2010.

No assessment has been made of the likely effects on Wales of BIS's planned spending reductions in financial year 2010-11.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12823]

Mr Davey: The Department does not separately record spending on wine so the details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Yorkshire Forward

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many jobs in Yorkshire were *(a)* created and *(b)* supported by funding from Yorkshire Forward between 1997 and 2010. [12687]

Mr Prisk: Since being established in 1999, Yorkshire Forward has created over 225,000 jobs.

The following table sets out the total of jobs created by year.

	Total of jobs created
1999/2000	17,279
2000/01	16,882
2001/02	13,985
2002/03	10,888
2003/04	16,544
2004/05	27,312
2005/06	23,810
2006/07	22,254
2007/08	25,456
2008/09	23,635
2009/10	27,161

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 7 September 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prison Population (Drugs Act)

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effect on the size of the prison population of the implementation of the provisions of the Drugs Act 2005. [13083]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* Between 2005 and 2008 the number of immediate custodial sentences under the Drugs Act 2005 was 12, imposed on offenders who failed to comply with an initial or follow up assessment for specified Class A drug misuse. We have made no further estimate of the impact on the size of the prison population, other than the impact assessment that accompanied the Bill. The Government will shortly lay before Parliament a memorandum providing a post-legislative assessment of the Drugs Act 2005.

Police: Accountability

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* prepared a regulatory impact assessment and *(b)* estimated the cost to the public purse of implementing its proposals to introduce elected police commissioners. [12789]

Mrs May *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* A full impact assessment will be prepared and published ahead of the introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill later in this session. We are still consulting with the public and with partners about many aspects of the policy, and will be publishing estimates of costs following that consultation.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Staff: Allowances

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority on the experience of staff of hon. Members of the expenses scheme. [11495]

Sir George Young: I have regular discussions on a range of issues with representatives of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, including the experience of staff of hon. Members of the expenses scheme.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members claimed for *(a)* professional advice, *(b)* cleaning, *(c)* janitorial or reception services, *(d)* maintenance services for computer hardware and software, *(e)* interpreting and translation services, *(f)* recruitment services and *(g)* training for their staff from their staffing allowance in 2009-10. [11512]

Sir George Young: The numbers of Members who have had costs met from their 2009-10 staffing expenditure for each of the categories requested are as follows:

(a) professional advice: 14

(b) cleaning: 22

(c) janitorial or reception services: 7

(d) maintenance services for computer hardware and software: 7

(e) interpreting and translation services: 1

(f) recruitment services: 4

(g) training for their staff: 30.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Standards

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to improve the performance of *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission against its objectives. [12152]

Maria Miller: The Child Support Agency has improved its performance over the last few years against its objectives. This can be seen in the latest quarterly summary of statistics published on 28 July 2010:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0610.html

The objectives for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, which has responsibility for the Child Support Agency, are set out in its business plan for 20010-11:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/Business-Plan-2010.pdf

However despite positive progress, significant challenges remain. I have had a number of meetings with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to establish how current delivery fits with the Coalition Government priorities.

As with all areas of Government expenditure, detailed plans are subject to review.

Children: Poverty

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were lifted out of relative poverty between 1997 and May 2010. [12297]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

Figures for 1997-98 cover Great Britain only, as Northern Ireland data did not become available until the following year. The latest available data cover 2008-09.

Between 1997-98 and 2008-09, the number of children with incomes below 60% of the contemporary median income reduced by around 0.7 million in Great Britain.

In 1997-98, there were around 3.4 million children in relative poverty in Great Britain, which equates to around 27% of all children. The 2008-09 UK figures show that around 2.8 million children were in relative poverty, equating to around 22%.

Table: Number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent of contemporary median household income, before housing costs

	Million
1997-98 (GB)	3.4
1998-99 (UK)	3.4
1999-2000 (UK)	3.4
2000-01 (UK)	3.1
2001-02 (UK)	3.0
2002-03 (UK)	2.9
2003-04 (UK)	2.9
2004-05 (UK)	2.7
2005-06 (UK)	2.8
2006-07 (UK)	2.9
2007-08 (UK)	2.9
2008/09 (UK)	2.8

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
7. These statistics are based on incomes Before Housing Costs.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Crisis Loans

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department provides to people applying for crisis loans on the *(a)* basis for the application of the habitual residence test and *(b)* criteria used to determine the outcome of that test. [12365]

Steve Webb: The information requested is as follows:

(a) General guidance for people applying for crisis loans is available on the Direct Gov website and leaflet DWP1007. Applications are normally made by telephone and people can discuss their circumstances with the Crisis Loan decision-maker.

The Habitual Residence Test does not preclude the payment of a crisis loan if the application is made as a consequence of a disaster. If the application is not to alleviate the consequences of a disaster and the applicant has failed the Habitual Residence Test, in relation to a claim for an income-related benefit, a crisis loan will not be awarded.

(b) The Habitual Residence Test is applied to everyone who claims an income-related benefit such as Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. To satisfy the test a person must first have a right to reside and secondly, be actually habitually resident in the Common Travel Area[1] (CTA). A person who fails either or both parts of the test is treated as a person from abroad and does not have access to these benefits.

In deciding whether a person is actually habitually resident, decision makers, who decide entitlement to benefit, consider a wide variety of factors. These include reasons for coming to the United Kingdom, the length of their stay, future intentions, previous links with the country and, in the case of people returning to the United Kingdom, the reasons for their absence.

[1] The United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and the Republic of Ireland.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) Executive agency for which he is responsible in each year since 2005. [12446]

Chris Grayling: Total consultancy spend since 1 April 2005 for DWP (including Executive agencies and CMEC), and its non-departmental bodies (NDPBs) is provided as follows:

Financial year spend

					£ million
Body	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DWP (including CMEC)	130.29	162.62	76.48	95.18	72.08
Disabled Living Allowance Advisory Board	0	0	0	0.001	0
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	0	0	0	0	0
Equality 2005	0	0	0.02	0	0
Health and Safety Executive	1.37	0.69	0.44	0.78	1.96
Industrial Injuries Advisory council	0	0	0	0	0
Independent Living Fund	0.07	0.15	0.02	0.01	0.06
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	0	0	0.37	11.25	8.47
Pension Ombudsman/Pension Protection Delivery Fund Ombudsman	[1]—	[1]—	0.01	0.04	0.05
Pension Protection Fund	0.8	1.57	1.75	1.6	1.97
Social Security Advisory Committee	0	0	0	0	0

Financial year spend

Body	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million* *2009-10*
The Pensions Advisory Service	[1]—	0	0	0.05	0.08
The Pensions Regulator	6.68	6.49	4.14	5.61	6.04
Total Spend (including VAT)	139.21	171.52	83.23	114.52	90.71

[1] Figures are not available.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [13066]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available in this format as the Department for Work and Pensions typically competes and contracts for particular consultancy services or outcomes on a fixed cost basis rather than by the number of consultant days worked.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7569]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows.

DWP Legal category spending by year

	Spend (£)
2010-11	5,024,098
2009-10	22,018,223
2008-09	18,854,926
2007-08	18,864,410
2006-07	14,851,405
2005-06	18,564,671
2004-05	15,444,475
2003-04	17,263,198

Note:

The 2010-11 spend is for the period 1 April to 30 June 2010

DWP's (including Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission) costs for external legal advice are shown in the table above. They are captured under a range of existing commercial contracts. Prior to 2003, this information was not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Body	*1997 to 2002*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£* *2009-10*
Health and Safety Executive	—	2,534,539	3,808,111	4,047,071	4,166,872	4,411,027	4,091,135	6,886,350	8,645,694
Independent Living Fund	—	—	—	—	118,263	149,815	95,353	161,472	185,654
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,000	859,000	3,888,000
The Pensions Advisory Service	—	—	—	14,512	12,803	551	28,355	29,747	36,768
The Pensions Regulator	—	—	—	—	—	—	571,591	1,069,888	2,362,604
Pensions Ombudsman	—	—	—	—	—	—	39,252	45,000	35,698
Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social Security Advisory Committee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	336.26

The following bodies were sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions and its predecessors during the period for which information is requested. These bodies have either been closed or replaced by a successor body as shown as follows:

Pensions Compensation Board was replaced by the Pension Protection Fund in April 2005;

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority ceased on 5 April 2005, its work is now done by The Pensions Regulator;

The Appeals Service moved to the Department of Constitutional Affairs (now the Ministry of Justice) on 1 April 2006;

Disability Rights Commissioner was subsumed into the Commission for Equality and Human Rights in September 2007;

National Employment Panel ceased on 31 March 2008. Its functions have been incorporated into the UK Commission for Employment and Skills from 1 April 2008;

Working Ventures UK closed down on 30 September 2009.

NDPBs operate individual arrangements and I will let the hon. Member have information in relation to spend on legal advice for the following: The Pension Protection Fund, Disability Employment Advisory Committee, Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board, Equality 2025 and Industrial Injuries Advisory Council as soon as possible.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years in each (i) nation and (ii) region of the UK. [12448]

Chris Grayling: Financial data relating to all external spend of the Department are held on a consolidated UK basis. They cannot easily be broken down by nation, region of the UK, or by London without incurring disproportionate cost. The data provided below are therefore applicable to total spend across the UK.

(a) Public opinion research in each of the last five years

My Department does not conduct opinion polling.

My Department conducted annual omnibus surveys to monitor public attitudes to the Government's welfare reform programme in 2005-10.

Public Attitudes	£
2005-06	50,000
2006-07	32,030
2007-08	40,850
2008-09	80,525
2009-10	40,800

(b) Public relations contracts in each of the last five years

The Department contracts with PR agencies when there is a clear case that the agency's specific expertise and capacity will allow the Department to be more effective in its communications, or to meet a defined communications need that cannot be met by an in-house resource.

	£ million
2005-06	1.481
2006-07	1.332
2007-08	1.097
2008-09	1.2
2009-10	0.947

Females: Public Expenditure

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on women of reductions in his Department's expenditure announced in the June 2010 Budget. [9565]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is considering the equality impacts of all proposed reductions in the Department's welfare spending announced in the Budget on 22 June 2010.

Housing Benefit

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed changes to housing benefit levels on housing markets in areas with a high number of properties in the private rented sector. [12171]

Steve Webb: We will monitor the impact of the changes to housing benefit announced in the Emergency Budget through housing benefit data we routinely collect from local authorities. We will also be discussing with other Government Departments and the devolved Administrations other ways we might monitor the wider impact of these changes.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many units of temporary accommodation in each local authority area in London had housing benefit payments above *(a)* the local housing authority caps as set out in the Budget Red Book and *(b)* above the 30th percentile in the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [12306]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The local housing allowance (LHA) arrangements only apply to the deregulated private sector, and for temporary accommodation there is no record of the notional bedroom entitlement or the broad rental market area to be able to compare them with the applicable LHA rates.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he consulted *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* families of people killed or injured at work on the terms of reference of Lord Young's review of health and safety legislation. [13078]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State did not consult with any organisations on the terms of reference for Lord Young's health and safety review.

However, during the course of his review, Lord Young consulted with a number of organisations and key stakeholders, including, for example, the Trades Union Congress and Families Against Corporate Killers.

Local Housing Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* working age households received local housing allowance in March 2010 within each of the broad market rental areas; [12307]

(2) how many private tenants were in receipt of local housing allowance for *(a)* shared room, *(b)* one bedroom, *(c)* two bedroom, *(d)* three bedroom, *(e)* four bedroom and *(f)* five bedroom properties in March 2010 within each of the broad market rental areas covering each local authority; [12308]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of private tenancies in each broad market rental areas for which local housing allowance is claimed; [12309]

(4) how many private sector tenants of working age were receiving local housing allowance above the 30th percentile of rents in each broad market rental area in March 2010; [12313]

(5) how many private sector tenants of pension age were receiving local housing allowance above the 30th percentile of rents in each broad market rental area in March 2010; [12314]

(6) how many local housing allowance recipients are paying rents at or below the 30th percentile in each broad market rental area. [12316]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department only collects case-specific data at the point the local authority makes a decision on a claim and this can be up to 12 months in the past. Broad rental market area boundaries are subject to regular review and can change resulting in new areas being created. To provide the requested information by broad rental market area for any specific month would require remapping each household on the area boundaries for that month which could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Local Housing Allowance: Swindon

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in receipt of local housing allowance in Swindon receive a sum in benefit *(a)* lower than, *(b)* higher than and *(c)* equal to the level of their rent payments. [12083]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions published 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July, which includes analysis of the impact of removing the excess for those who receive housing benefit above their rent. Copies of the document are available in the Library. Table 14 shows the number of households assessed under the local housing arrangements for each local authority who were receiving housing benefit above their rent.

Information on number of households receiving housing benefit awards equal or lower than their rent payments is not available at sub-national level.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 221-2W, on mortgages: Government assistance, when he expects to have developed an estimate of the effect of the changes proposed to the level of assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in the June 2010 Budget on the number of home repossessions in each of the next three years; and if he will publish the estimates. [12619]

Steve Webb: The Department does not capture information on reasons for ending a benefit claim, including support for mortgage interest, so specific information on the number of claimants who no longer receive support for mortgage interest payments because their property has been repossessed is not available.

The Department is in the process of developing a model to estimate the impact of changes to support for mortgage interest on the number of repossessions. However any estimates will always be limited since detailed case-by-case information, such as arrears at the start of a claim, is not collected by the Department. The Department will consider whether the results can be used publicly once this is work is complete.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in support for mortgage interest benefit in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* Jobcentre Plus district in the last 12 months; and how much was paid to those who were also in receipt of (i) income support, (ii) jobseeker's allowance and (iii) pension credit in each such case. [12626]

Steve Webb: Support for mortgage interest is not a benefit in its own right: it is one component in the calculation of entitlement to income-related benefits. However the Department's administrative records allow it to estimate the expenditures involved on this component.

The information is not available in the format requested; the available information has been placed in the Library. The information relates to Great Britain, and the financial year 2009-10.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each region were in receipt of support for mortgage interest benefit in each region in the last 12 months; and how many of those were also in receipt of *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* pension credit in each such case. [12627]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following tables.

Claimants of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and pension credit in receipt of support for mortgage interest: by country and/or region, as at February and May 2009

	February			*May*		
	IS	*JSA*	*PC*	*IS*	*JSA*	*PC*
North East	3,900	700	6,200	3,900	1,100	6,400
North West	11,700	1,500	15,000	11,800	2,500	15,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,800	1,000	9,600	7,800	1,900	9,700
East Midlands	5,900	1,100	7,100	5,900	1,500	7,300
West Midlands	9,300	1,700	9,700	9,500	2,500	9,900
East of England	6,600	1,000	9,700	6,600	2,200	9,700
London	9,900	2,100	11,700	10,200	2,900	12,100
South East	7,800	1,200	12,400	7,700	1,400	12,800
South West	5,400	700	9,100	5,500	1,400	9,300
Wales	5,600	600	7,700	5,600	1,000	7,800
Scotland	5,300	500	16,400	5,000	1,200	16,500

Claimants of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and pension credit in receipt of support for mortgage interest: by country and/or region, as at August and November 2009

	August			*November*		
	IS	*JSA*	*PC*	*IS*	*JSA*	*PC*
North East	3,900	1,300	6,300	3,900	1,500	6,300
North West	11,900	3,600	15,100	11,600	4,000	15,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,800	2,700	9,500	7,500	3,300	9,700
East Midlands	5,900	2,100	7,500	5,600	2,600	7,600
West Midlands	9,100	3,400	9,700	9,100	4,500	10,000
East of England	6,300	2,800	9,700	6,300	3,100	10,100
London	9,900	3,700	11,900	9,900	4,400	11,700
South East	7,700	2,000	13,000	7,600	2,400	12,900
South West	5,500	1,800	9,400	5,300	1,900	9,500

Claimants of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and pension credit in receipt of support for mortgage interest: by country and/or region, as at August and November 2009

	August			November		
	IS	*JSA*	*PC*	*IS*	*JSA*	*PC*
Wales	5,600	1,700	7,700	5,400	1,900	7,700
Scotland	4,900	1,600	16,300	4,900	1,800	16,100

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) totals.
3. For jobseeker's allowance mortgage interest can only be claimed on income-based jobseeker's allowance.
4. Monthly figures are not available therefore the last four quarters data have been provided.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants of each benefit type successfully appealed against a benefit sanction in 2009-10. [13258]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) is responsible for considering appeals against decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Neither the Tribunals Service nor the Department for Work and Pensions is able to provide the information which the hon. Member has requested. This is because appeals against a benefit sanction are not separately identified as part of the appeals process.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13283]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office paid 100% of its July 2010 invoices within 10 days of receipt. The figures for August 2010 are not yet available.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13285]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office maintains the policy that road traffic violations remain the responsibility of the individual and are not reimbursed from public funds. As such, there has been no expenditure on transport-related fines since 2005.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by his Department in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12491]

David Mundell: Pension contributions incurred by the Scotland Office for the last three years are as follows:

	Pension contributions (£)
2007-08	345,063
2008-09	361,312
2009-10	396,268

The planned expenditure for 2010-11 is £430,194.

Departmental Responsibilities

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 975W, on departmental travel, what the *(a)* location and *(b)* times of arrival and departure were of each of his engagements on 13 July 2010. [13255]

Michael Moore: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13284]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office encourages all staff to undertake learning and development activities. The majority of opportunities are provided through the Scottish Government and the Ministry of Justice; but where the training need is still not available within central Government, external training courses may be considered.

The Office does not maintain a central record of external training courses attended or their associated costs.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much office space per employee his Department and its predecessors occupied in each year since 1997. [13006]

Norman Baker: As reported in the State of the Estate report the Department for Transport reported occupancy, excluding operational properties, of 12.4 square metres per person in 2007-08 and 12.7 square metres per person in 2008-09.

Information for the period prior to 2007-08 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for 2009-10 are currently being collated.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its predecessors spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13025]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002 and comprises a central Department and seven Executive agencies. Information for the period prior to this date is not available.

The requested information, where recorded, is provided as follows.

£

Property Centre	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DfT Central—London HQ[1]	0	0	0	100,637	179,550	333,201	49,851	61,110
Driving Standards Agency[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency[3]	54,980	55,222	55,270	65,353	65,988	55,167	n/a	n/a
Highways Agency—Estates[4]	—	—	—	—	218,562	349,457	361,241	440,201
Highways Agency—Road Schemes[5]	—	—	—	—	—	1,896,091	1,812,015	2,418,289

[1] Relates to six vacant former Strategic Rail Authority properties that transferred to the Department on 16 October 2005. Spend includes rent, rates, service charge, professional fees, dilapidations and exit payments. All properties have been disposed of and there are no vacant properties on the central estate.

[2] Data for the period prior to 2010-11 are available only at disproportionate cost.

[3] Relates to one property which was disposed of in January 2008.

[4] These figures include rent/lease, service charge, maintenance, rates, utilities, professional fees and security.

[5] These costs are property fees only and do not include any supervision fees.

No other part of the Department has incurred spend on vacant properties.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9998]

Norman Baker: In total, £126,160,000 was paid as remuneration to civil servants by the Department for Transport in 2009-10. This includes pay, employer pension contributions and national insurance payments, as well as any taxable benefits and non consolidated performance related payments.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12341]

Norman Baker: The total amount paid in rent, where recorded, is provided in the following table.

The data requested at (b) (i) and (ii) are available only at disproportionate cost.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Central Department:					
London HQ	10,845,104	13,461,748	12,894,592	12,743,755	12,804,285
Marine Accident Investigation Branch[1]	76,063	76,063	76,063	76,063	160,073
Rail Accident Investigation Branch	138,013	147,134	149,850	128,500	128,500
Executive Agency:					
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	4,122,000	4,558,000	4,921,419	4,754,629	5,073,871
Driving Standards Agency[2]	[2]—	[2]—	6,737,963	10,927,772	7,277,829
Government Car and Despatch Agency	599,025	759,994	78,253	831,614	748,475
Highways Agency[3]	6,932,704	7,409,106	7,435,417	11,394,288	11,321,661
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	3,403,733	3,433,058	3,795,598	3,617,736	3,569,149
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	3,504,000	3,040,000	3,299,000	3,977,000	3,099,000
Vehicle Certification Agency	170,843	206,040	224,722	215,954	191,181

[1] 2009-10 data includes rent review and lease surrender rent.

[2] Data for 2006-07 and 2005-06 not available due to accounting software issues. The drop in cost between 2008-09 and 2009-10 is because: (a) a number of leasehold properties were disposed of, (b) the rental cost of one of DSA's former HQ buildings was accounted for as a lump sum, for the financial years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. This equalled £1.2million (excluding VAT) and (c) a change in the International Financial Reporting Standards meant some properties are now shown as 'long-term lease properties' and not 'rental properties'.

[3] These costs exclude centrally funded rental costs associated with office moves. Prior to 2008-09, costs for our Regional Control Centres were managed centrally as part of the project to set up the Traffic Officer Service. It is not feasible to provide a regional breakdown of these costs. Costs for the Regional Control Centres are included from 2008-09 onwards.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the increase in security costs incurred by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies between 2000-01 and 2008-09. [13355]

Norman Baker: The figures provided in my answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1002-1004W, to your previous question, for the costs of protective security for this Department, its agencies and sponsored bodies are from those records available centrally.

The figures provided do not include costs where records are not available centrally or where such records no longer exist. Not all of the Department, its agencies and sponsored bodies were able to provide the requested security cost information for each year of this request. Therefore the total annual spend on security for earlier years has necessarily omitted any spend for those bodies that were unable to provide this information. This suppresses the total spending figures for earlier years when compared to more recent years where more complete information is available.

In addition, central records are not to be taken as representative of total costs as there have been differences across the Department and its agencies in approach to attributing administrative spend against security, as opposed to ICT, Estates, HR etc.

In this respect it should be noted that the security costs for the central Department before 2007-08 did not include costs associated with the provision for National Security Vetting, at which time these functions were transferred from the Department's HR team to the security team.

Highways Agency: Compensation

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many claims were received by the Highways Agency under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in the last 12 months; and what proportion of such claims were successful. [12146]

Mike Penning: In the 12 month period from July 2009 to July 2010, the Highways Agency received 4023 claims for compensation under Part 1 Land Compensation Act 1973.

As a result of the process that claims are required to go through in order to establish eligibility and to calculate the amount of compensation payable, not all of the claims submitted over the last 12 months have been settled within that time. Therefore, I cannot estimate the proportion that will prove to be successful. On average, however, compensation is paid in 63% of claims submitted.

Under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 ('the Act'), compensation can be claimed by people who own and also occupy property that has been reduced in value by more than £50 by physical factors caused by the use of a new or altered road. The physical factors are noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke and artificial lighting and the discharge on to the property of any solid or liquid substance.

All Part 1 claims submitted to the Highways Agency are checked to ensure that claimants are both eligible to claim, and hold a qualifying interest in land as defined by the Act. The claims are then individually assessed by the Agency's independent valuation contractors to ensure that the correct amount of compensation is paid.

The Agency aims to process and settle all claims as quickly as possible. For a small road scheme where there are a small number of claims which are straightforward, this will usually take about six months to complete. For larger road schemes where there are a large number of claims or if the claim is complex, the processing period may take longer, up to 18 months.

Road Traffic Offences

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of the statutory requirement for local authorities to advertise traffic regulation orders; and if he will make a statement. [13332]

Norman Baker: The review of traffic signs policy was launched in September 2008. It includes an Enforcement Action Plan, within which is a task to:

> "Develop alternative models to the traffic regulation order process for the purpose of regulatory traffic signs. In particular, to consider whether more restrictions and prohibitions can be delivered directly through the regulations."

The procedures for, and cost-effectiveness of, publicising proposed traffic regulation orders are being considered within that remit.

The findings and recommendations of the review should be available by the middle of next year.

Roads: Safety

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department plans to provide to each local authority through the road safety grant in 2010-11. [12201]

Mike Penning: The Government have made clear that an urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit in order to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. As a contribution to addressing the record deficit, we therefore have reduced the previous plans for local authority funding in 2010-11.

Central Government's financial support grant to local authorities is provided through a variety of mechanisms, such as formula grant (including the revenue support grant), specific grants and specific capital grants.

The Government are clear that local government needs increased flexibility to take decisions locally. It has therefore retained the most flexible funding (formula grant) for 2010-11 at the level approved previously by Parliament (£29 billion).

We have also lifted restrictions on how local government spends its money by removing ring-fences. We expect local authorities to be able to make savings from efficiency measures, eliminating waste and, where necessary, reducing spending in areas that are lower priorities for their communities. The fact that certain grants have been chosen for reduction over others does not mean that the Government expect there to be a direct correlation between grant reductions and local authority budget changes. For example, road safety grant was reduced as this grant was spread evenly across all local authorities, not because this was considered an area of lower priority spending.

The road safety funding allocations for each local authority in 2010-11, as set at April 2010, can be found on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http:/www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localauthorities/funding/fundingstreams/capitalandrevenue/roadsafety/

Reductions to 2010-11 grants are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/

Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involved a motor vehicle found to have *(a)* illegal tread depth and *(b)* poor tyre condition in each of the last 10 years. [13553]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not hold any data on whether motor vehicles involved in road traffic accidents were found to have illegal tread depth or poor tyre condition. Since 2005 the police have collected information on contributory factors to personal injury road accidents. When a police officer attends the scene of a personal injury road accident they can report 'tyres illegal, defective or under inflated' as a contributory factor. The following table shows the number of accidents this factor was reported in for each year since 2005.

Reported personal injury accidents in which 'tyres illegal, defective or under inflated' was reported as a contributory factor[1]: GB 2005-09

Year of accident	*Number of accidents*	*Percentage of all accidents*
2005	1,128	1
2006	1,002	1
2007	1,027	1
2008	929	1
2009	860	1

[1] Includes only cases where a police officer attended the scene and a contributory factor was reported.

Contributory factors reflect the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting, and where a factor may have contributed to the cause of an accident it may be difficult for a police officer attending the scene after the accident to identify this, so factors may be under-reported. Not all reported road accidents are included in contributory factor analysis, only those where a police officer attended the scene and at least one contributory factor was reported.

DEFENCE

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7430]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence spent £220 million on travel in 2008-09 and £210 million in 2009-10. These figures include air and rail fares, short-term car hire, the contract and fuel costs of our fleet and rented cars, motor mileage costs reimbursed to staff using their own vehicles on official duty journeys, the reimbursement of taxi, bus and underground fares, and most sea journeys. Comparable figures before 2008-09 and a breakdown below departmental level are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A key principle is that travel should be avoided where the business need can be met by alternatives to travel, such as e-mail and video or audio conferencing.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Nimrod MRA4 procurement has cost to date; and what is the estimated cost of crew training and preparation for the aircraft prior to entering service. [12288]

Peter Luff: Procurement costs for the Nimrod MRA4 to June 2010 are approximately £3.4 billion.

The design and implementation of the in-service support solution for the MRA4 aircraft is contracted as a single entity which includes the cost of crew training. The estimated total cost of the support solution up to the currently anticipated achievement of initial operating capability in October 2012 is £0.6 billion. In addition, the estimated cost of pay for RAF personnel undertaking the training until 2012 is £17.2 million.

All projects are being considered as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and the outcome of this is expected to be announced in the autumn.

EDUCATION

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children attend schools which have been rebuilt or refurbished under the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency, *(b)* Northumberland and *(c)* England. [10212]

Mr Gibb: As Northumberland has not joined Building Schools for the Future (BSF), no children in the Wansbeck constituency or the local authority attend schools which have been rebuilt or refurbished under the programme.

Exact figures in respect of England are not held centrally, but we estimate that in mainstream secondary schools around 167,000 students are attending schools that have received BSF investment. This is based on a number on roll of 1,100 for the average secondary school.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of the funding allocated by his Department to school building capital expenditure was administered under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and when he expects to announce details of future capital allocations for schools. [10846]

Mr Gibb: Building Schools for the Future has accounted for around one third of the schools capital budget from 2004.

On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of all areas of the Department for Education's capital spending. Its purpose is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money.

The review team will produce an interim report in the autumn. Its report will guide future spending decisions over the next Spending Review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). It will also look at how best to meet parental demand; make current design and procurement cost-effective and efficient; and overhaul how capital is allocated and targeted.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will publish the advice he received prior to his decision to end Building Schools for the Future funding for a combined broad spectrum special school in Coventry South constituency; [9130]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of his decision to end the Building Schools for the Future programme on the *(a)* Alice Stevens, *(b)* Sherbourne Fields and *(c)* Baginton Fields special schools in Coventry; [9131]

(3) what support he intends to provide for the *(a)* Alice Stevens, *(b)* Sherbourne Fields and *(c)* Baginton Fields special schools in Coventry following the ending of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [9132]

(4) what his policy is on the provision of broad spectrum special schools following the ending of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [9133]

(5) what steps he is taking to ensure that special schools in Coventry have adequate facilities to meet the needs of their pupils. [9134]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State considered wide-ranging advice from officials on the impact of his decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme, including advice about schools in Coventry. This advice did not cover the specific detail of the impact on special schools in Coventry.

The cancellation of BSF does not represent the end of capital investment in schools. On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of the Department's capital programmes. The review will make recommendations to help the decisions of future capital investment in schools, to ensure that investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

Children: Protection

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from organisations representing children's interests on his proposal to publish serious case reviews in full. [10328]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The Government believe that publishing serious case review (SCR) overview reports will restore public confidence and improve transparency in the child protection system, and ensure that the context in which the events occurred is properly understood so relevant lessons are learnt and applied as widely as possible.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards should publish the overview report and the executive summary—anonymised and without identifying details—for all SCRs initiated on or after 10 June unless there are compelling child welfare reasons not to.

According to our records, by 20 July, the Secretary of State had received two written representations about this policy from organisations representing children's interests: one in support of full SCR disclosure from the Victoria Climbié Foundation; and one from Cumbria's Local Safeguarding Children Board raising concerns about anonymity, and frankness of participating practitioners. The President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) also shared her views with DFE Ministers at the recent ADCS conference.

Education: Pay

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* support staff employed by schools and other education establishments in Colchester constituency will have their pay frozen as a result of the decision to freeze the wages of public sector workers; [4566]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* support staff employed by local education authorities will have their pay frozen as a result of the decision to freeze the wages of public sector workers. [4575]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The Department does not hold this information.

The Government have announced a two year pay freeze for public sector workers. For teachers in maintained schools in England and Wales this will take effect from September 2011 for two years. The Secretary of State announced on 22 June 2010 that teachers' pay will be increased by 2.3% from 1 September 2010. The minimum salary of a newly qualified teacher in England and Wales from 1 September 2010 will be £21,588. This exceeds the threshold of £21,000 above which the public sector pay freeze will start as announced in the emergency Budget on 22 June.

There is no central mechanism for deciding the pay of school support staff, with employers having responsibility for determining salaries at local level. That responsibility rests with individual local authorities as the legal employer of support staff in community and voluntary controlled schools, and the governing body in foundation and voluntary aided schools.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education according to what criteria the pupil premium will be allocated. [11458]

Mr Gibb: On Monday 26 July the Secretary of State and the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather) launched a consultation on our proposals for school funding in 2011-12, including options on the best deprivation indicator to use to allocate the pupil premium. The options being considered are:

Free School Meal eligibility—which could be current eligibility or a measure of whether the pupil has ever been eligible for FSM;

Tax Credit Indicator—pupils in families in receipt of out-of-work tax credit;

and

Commercial packages based on classifications of postcodes, such as Mosaic or Acorn.

We are also seeking views on proposals about how to extend the coverage of the pupil premium to target looked-after children, and children whose parents are in the armed forces.

Full details of the consultation, and a copy of the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State, can be found online at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/press-notices-new/pupil-premium

Schools: Standards

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of schools rated outstanding by Ofsted at their last inspection changed status in the last 10 years. [9397]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: 3.8% of schools rated outstanding at their last inspection have changed their status as defined by their designated school type. This comprises schools that have changed between designations as community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided schools and voluntary controlled schools.

Single Sex Education

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of state-funded single sex schools on the balance between the sexes in adjacent co-educational state-funded schools; and if he will make a statement. [10937]

Mr Gibb: Under current legislation it is for local authorities to assess the likely impact of single sex maintained schools and to ensure there is equal access to single sex provision for the other sex where there is parental demand.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Attorney-General how many legally qualified staff have been recruited by the Treasury Solicitor's Department since May 2010; and where these posts were advertised. [13325]

The Solicitor-General: No legally qualified staff have been recruited by the Treasury Solicitor's Department since May 2010.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Attorney-General how many temporary staff are employed by *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency. [12138]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Department	*Temporary staff*[1]
Attorney-General's Office	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	106
Her Majesty' Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	1
National Fraud Authority	3
Serious Fraud Office	76
Crown Prosecution Service	293

[1] Recorded data as at 30 June 2010, with the exception of CPS data which is taken from latest published figures from 31 March 2010.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Attorney-General how many paid manpower hours civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11719]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department gives a facility time allowance to each of the two recognised trade unions (Public and Commercial Services Union and FDA) for its committee members; the monitoring of this allowance is delegated to local business managers and no central record is held of the actual amounts taken during any financial year. The same arrangement also covers Attorney General's Office staff.

The facility time allowed is as follows:

PCS—an allocation of 1.3 full-time equivalent staff years for Group Office Holders, In addition, one hours facility time was allowed for each member to attend the Annual General Meeting.

FDA—an allocation of approximately 0.15 full-time equivalent staff years for Group Office Holders. In addition, one hour's facility time was allowed for each member to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Information regarding the amount of time spent by Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff on trade union related duties and activities is not available for the period before 2008. The total time spent by paid CPS civil servants on trade union related duties and activities for both unions in the CPS during the periods 2008-09 and 2009-10 was 28, 515 hours and 35, 852 hours respectively.

The Serious Fraud Office does not hold details on the number of days spent by staff engaged on trade union activities. It would be possible to provide such data only at a disproportionate cost.

The size of Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate does not justify an agreement for routine facility time. HMCPSI has a Whitley council which meets quarterly and is attended by FDA and PCS representatives, and where it is necessary for union representatives to devote time to specific activities on personal cases, this is done by agreement with their line manager. No formal record is maintained.

No days were spent by civil servants of the National Fraud Authority on trade union-related activities while being paid salaries in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Priti Patel: To ask the Attorney-General how many civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11720]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department and the Attorney-General's Office give a facility time allowance to each of the two recognised Trade Unions (PCS and FDA) for its committee members; the monitoring of this allowance is delegated to local business managers and no central record is held of the actual amounts taken during any financial year.

The facility time allowed is as follows:

Public and Commercial Services Union—an allocation of 1.3 full-time equivalent staff years for Group Office Holders. In addition, one hour's facility time was allowed for each member to attend the Annual General Meeting.

FDA - an allocation of approximately 0.15 full-time equivalent staff years for Group Office Holders. In addition, one hours facility time was allowed for each member to attend the Annual General Meeting.

The Serious Fraud Office and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate do not maintain central records of the exact amount of time spent by staff on trade union activity, and such information could only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

No days were spent by civil servants of the National Fraud Authority on trade union-related activities while being paid salaries in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Information regarding the amount of time spent by Crown Prosecution Service civil servants on trade union related duties and activities is not available for the period before 2008. The requested breakdown of paid CPS civil servants carrying out trade union activities or duties during 2008-09 and 2009-10 is as follows:

	Representatives/civil servants
2008-09	
Over 25 days	20
20 to 25 days	1
15 to 20 days	3
10 to 15 days	9
five to 10 days	10
Under 5 days	151
2009-10	
Over 25 days	32
20 to 25 days	5
15 to 20 days	5
10 to 15 days	8
five to 10 days	22

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Manpower

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the creative industries. [13188]

Mr Vaizey: The last DCMS Creative Industries Economics Estimates bulletin, published in February 2010, reported that in the summer quarter of 2008, creative employment totalled just under 2 million jobs. This comprised over 1.1 million jobs in the creative industries and over 800,000 further creative jobs within businesses outside these industries. A further breakdown is published at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/4848.aspx

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each region of England was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12469]

John Penrose: The Department's and The Royal Parks (TRP) executive agency's expenditure on vehicles in the last three financial years is in the table. In May 2010 the Secretary of State cancelled the Department's car accounts and subject to some fees will save around £250,000 a year. The Royal Parks plans vehicle expenditure of £175,800 for 2010-11 based on existing budget.

		£
Financial year	*DCMS vehicle expenditure*	*TRP vehicle expenditure*
2007-08	376,861	201,636
2008-09	276,668	210,549
2009-10	318,501	189,977

The Department does not collate information on vehicle expenditure by its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire. Copies of their replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Listed Buildings: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons the letter outlining his Department's decision to uphold English Heritage's listing of Coventry Market was sent to the hon. Member for Workington (Tony Cunningham) rather than to the hon. Member for Coventry South. [12095]

John Penrose: I apologise for the unfortunate administrative error, procedures have been tightened to prevent further occurrence.

Local Broadcasting

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet volunteers from East Coast FM to discuss community radio license availability. [12694]

Mr Vaizey: The licensing of community radio stations is a matter for Ofcom, who operate independently of Government.

However, I would welcome the opportunity to hear from volunteers from East Coast FM on this issue.

Olympic Games 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of funding for the Olympic Village was provided by *(a)* private investors and *(b)* the public sector. [13200]

Hugh Robertson: It was originally intended that the Olympic Village would be delivered by a private developer. However, as a consequence of the economic downturn, the previous Government decided that the private developer option did not offer the best value for money for the taxpayer and £650 million of funding for the Olympic Village was therefore provided from the public sector funding package for the 2012 Games. Additional funding of £268 million was provided by Triathlon Homes, a consortium of First Base, and East Thames and Southern registered social landlords, as part of the agreement to purchase 1,379 affordable homes, with the balance of funding due to be raised by sales of homes for occupancy after the Games. Further information on this arrangement was published in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Economic Report, July 2009.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had on promoting the Big Society Agenda in relation to preparations for the London 2012 Olympics. [13358]

Hugh Robertson: My Department is in regular contact with other Departments, including the Office for Civil Society, about our plans to develop and deliver a lasting legacy from the London 2012 Games and discussions include the extent to which those plans can help to meet our aspirations for the Big Society. An example of an area where we are exploring how the Games might help to deliver Big Society aspirations is through volunteering. The Games are reliant on volunteers: from Games-time venue-based volunteers to city volunteers in London, Weymouth and other venue locations plus at ports of entry and along the Torch Relay route. We also see great potential for the Games to inspire people across the country to volunteer and engage in their local communities.

I plan to publish a document in the autumn setting out our vision for the legacy of the Games and confirming the legacy programme.

Olympic Games 2012: Loans

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the Government have underwritten loans taken out by the Olympic Delivery Authority. [13201]

Hugh Robertson: No, nor has the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) taken out any loans.

The Government have however given a guarantee in support of the Olympic Delivery Authority's agreement with Triathlon Homes LLP who have undertaken to purchase 1,379 affordable homes on the Olympic Village Development, and took out loans as part of that agreement. The detailed arrangements of this were announced to Parliament in a ministerial written statement on 22 June 2009.

The details of the ODA's financial position, including commitments, contingent liabilities, subsidiary companies and investments are set out in its annual report and accounts. The annual report and accounts for 2009-10 were laid before Parliament on 22 July and copies are available in the House Library or they can be accessed on the London2012 website at:

http://www.london2012.com/publications/oda-annual-report-accounts-2010.php

Olympic Games 2012: Social Rented Housing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of property in the Olympic Village will be converted into social housing after the London 2010 Olympic Games. [13202]

Hugh Robertson: After the 2012 Games the Olympic Village will be converted into a mix of private and social housing available for take-up by local people and others. In 2009 Triathlon Homes, a consortium of First Base, and Southern and East Thames registered social landlords, entered into an agreement with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to purchase 1,379 affordable homes in the Olympic Village, representing 49% of the homes available, with an option that 264 of those could be sold on the open market after one year which, if invoked, would reduce the proportion of affordable homes to 39.5%.

Olympic Games 2012: Volunteers

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to encourage volunteering by people from local London boroughs in the London 2012 Olympics. [13357]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for recruiting the up to 70,000 'games maker' volunteers required to stage the London 2012 games. LOCOG will launch the application process to the general public later this month, backed up with marketing across London boroughs as well as nation-wide. The games are for the whole of the UK and so all local boroughs, whether in London or not, should be encouraging their residents to consider whether to apply to this scheme. In addition, the Mayor of London is seeking expressions of interest for his 'London ambassador' scheme, seeking volunteers to welcome the world to London at train stations, tourist attractions and live sites.

Tourism: Visas

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the effect on levels of inbound tourism of the cost of a visa to visit the UK compared to the cost of a visa to visit a country within the Schengen zone. [13205]

John Penrose: I have not made a detailed economic impact assessment of the comparative cost and convenience of obtaining UK and Schengen visitor visas, but I am aware of the tourism industry's grave concerns about the possible impact on inbound tourism. Accordingly, improving the pre-entry visa experience is something I am looking at as part of the Government's new tourism strategy, which will be published later in the year. I am working closely with the Home Office to look at simplifying and improving the process of arranging a visa, including whether there could be greater alignment of the UK and Schengen visitor visa processes.

VisitBritain: Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to allocate additional funding to VisitBritain for the purposes of marketing related to the *(a)* London 2012 Olympics and *(b)* Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. [13204]

John Penrose: Using the opportunities presented by major events, such as the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup, to create a lasting tourism legacy for all our nations remains a major priority. The funding of VisitBritain over the period 2011-15 is part of ongoing Spending Round considerations. Decisions on the outcome of the Spending Round will be announced in due course.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Jacob Rees-Mogg: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether redefinition of constituencies consequent upon his proposals to equalise their size will take account of the historic county boundaries. [11799]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, introduced on 22 July, requires that each constituency be wholly in one of the four parts of the United Kingdom. In addition, the rules allow the Boundary Commissions to take account, among other things, of local government boundaries (defined as the boundaries of counties and London boroughs) and local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies. These considerations are subject to the central principle of the rules, which is that constituencies should be of more equal size.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received on the level of payments to local authority chief executives for their role in administering elections. [10784]

Mr Harper: To date, the Cabinet Office has received three parliamentary questions and four letters from MPs on behalf of their constituents.

The Cabinet Office has also received correspondence from members of the public who have raised this matter along with other electoral issues.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Company Liquidations

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to access unclaimed funds in bank accounts of wound-up companies; and what discussions he has had with banks in respect of any outstanding charges to be levied on such accounts before transfer to the Exchequer. [10501]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

When a company registered under the Companies Acts is dissolved, any property and rights in England and Wales held by the company at the date of its dissolution (including any money in bank accounts) pass to the Crown as "bona vacantia". The Treasury Solicitor is the Crown's nominee for dealing with bona vacantia in England (except in the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster), Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, bona vacantia falls to be dealt with by the Queen and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. Income from bona vacantia is paid into the Consolidated Fund. Banks and other institutions holding such funds are entitled to make lawful deductions in respect of their charges before remitting the balance as bona vacantia.

Where a company is placed in liquidation prior to being dissolved, the liquidator will apply any assets of the company (including any money in bank accounts) to pay its debts. In these circumstances by the time the company is dissolved there will ordinarily be no assets to pass to the Crown as bona vacantia.

In the financial year 2009-10 the Bona Vacantia Division of the Treasury Solicitor's Department received £46,873,362.65 from banks, building societies and other financial institutions and from solicitors' client accounts in respect of dissolved companies.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7309]

Justine Greening: The information available on spending on employee team building events by the Department, its agencies and non-departmental body is shown in the following table.

		£000
	HM Treasury (HMT)	*Asset Protection Agency*
2005-06	54	n/a
2006-07	191	n/a
2007-08	295	n/a
2008-09	388	1
2009-10	185	2

Data for HMT prior to 2005-06 are not available as spending on team building events was not separately identified prior to that date. The initial data collected in 2005-06 are not directly comparable to figures for later years due to a change to the accounting system to more accurately capture spending on team-building events.

Information on team building events held by the Debt Management Office is not held centrally and could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold. The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has not held any team building events during the period in question.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Sustainable Development

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of her Department's progress in promoting sustainable agriculture. [12895]

Mr Paice: One of DEFRA's priorities is to support and develop British farming and encourage sustainable food production. This is supported by a number of specific actions with associated milestones as set out in the Department's Structural Reform Plan. Additionally, the Department publishes on the Food and Farming Statistics pages of its website a comprehensive set of indicators which track the performance of the sector in economic, environmental and social terms and collectively provide a broad measure of its sustainability.

Animal Welfare

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance her Department issues on the housing and sale of animals in pet shops; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement; [12231]

(2) whether she plans to review the regulations regarding pet shops, with reference to *(a)* the age at which children can buy animals and *(b)* the conditions in which animals are kept; and if she will make a statement; [12232]

(3) under what legislation the sale of exotic pets is regulated; what plans she has to amend such regulation; and if she will make a statement; [12233]

(4) what exotic animals may lawfully be sold in pet shops; whether she plans to make changes to that regime; and if she will make a statement; [12234]

(5) what recent representations she has received on the sale of *(a)* exotic animals and *(b)* endangered species; and if she will make a statement; [12235]

(6) what plans she has to amend the regulatory system governing the sale of exotic animals and dangerous animals in pet shops; and if she will make a statement. [12236]

Mr Paice: The business of selling animals as pets is regulated by the Pet Animals Act 1951 (as amended, 1983). This means that anyone who wishes to sell pet animals as a business must obtain a valid licence from their local authority. Local authorities have powers of inspection and can decide whether or not a premise should be licensed. Guidelines for local authority inspectors, which include minimum standards of welfare, are produced by the Local Government Association with assistance from the British Veterinary Association, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association and Pet Care Trust and are currently being updated.

The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulates trade in endangered animals and plants. Although not a welfare convention it aims to make sure that international trade is conducted sustainably, ensuring the long-term survival of species. CITES strictly regulates and monitors trade through a permitting system. Trade in those species at most risk of extinction from international trade is banned except in exceptional circumstances.

CITES provisions are applied uniformly in the European Community (EC) through two EC Regulations (Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1808/2001). The regulations are often stricter than CITES itself.

I am satisfied that the current legislation, including the Animal Welfare Act 2006, provides adequate protection for the welfare of animals being sold as pets.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 121W, on animal welfare: circuses, whether Ministers have concluded their consideration of the recent public consultation exercise on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses; and when the results of that consideration are expected to be announced. [1[illegible]052]

Mr Paice: There has been a considerable amount of information for us to consider, as well as a need to meet representatives of the circus industry and animal welfare organisations in order to hear their views. We are currently considering matters raised at these meetings. We expect to be in a position to announce our decision on the proposed way forward in the autumn.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13040]

Richard Benyon: The Department was formed in 2001; to seek information prior to 2005 would incur disproportionate cost.

From data held centrally and by the executive agencies, the following shows expenditure on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 2005-06.

(a) Reimbursement of staff expenses

	£
2005-06	6,195,092
2006-07	10,938,667
2007-08	9,123,647
2008-09	8,398,060
2009-10	7,950,289

(b) 10 largest staff expenses reimbursement claims in each year since 2005-06

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	28,975.10	32,360.19	35,042.35	40,600.57	27,430.70
2	23,795.85	24,432.25	25,010.57	19,631.81	23,287.84
3	22,014.61	22,062.55	20,730.59	15,952.99	17,356.70
4	19,329.48	21,093.22	19,825.81	15,947.45	16,100.33
5	19,116.90	20,168.60	18,292.64	15,122.40	14,606.40
6	18,968.98	20,038.66	17,492.98	14,572.12	14,560.33
7	18,283.30	18,729.86	17,333.79	14,378.08	13,321.25
8	17,250.08	18,702.93	16,539.96	12,777.10	13,064.48
9	16,873.14	18,208.57	16,419.76	12,193.32	12,611.65
10	16,512.77	17,177.50	15,382.05	11,781.60	12,597.63

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which her Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [12475]

Richard Benyon: Expenditure on external consultants and advisers for each year since 2005 is shown in the following table. Main delivery NDPBs have been included, to go to them all would incur disproportionate cost.

					£
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DEFRA core[1]	44,000,000	29,000,000	37,290,720	25,173,402	26,101,691
Animal Health	—	n/a	1,042,202	736,273	2,160,000
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	38,251	161,738	57,803	72,422	95,892
Rural Payments Agency	29,500,000	27,900,000	23,400,000	23,200,000	25,000,000
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	163,808	120,588	86,748	64,286	66,006
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	55,444	69,164	111,919	112,812	143,728
Marine and Fisheries Agency	—	—	142,715	585,273	576,934
Food and Environment Research Agency[2]	202,467	291,081	300,389	569,209	456,427
Environment Agency	16,129,898	11,609,884	10,289,632	10,772,378	11,060,971
Gangmasters Licensing Authority[4]	128,900	56,500	0	15,000	9,000
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	28,074	27,811	10,112	32,251	54,290
National Forestry Company	12,444	27,640	0	8,038	14,747
Natural England[5]	—	3,002,000	2,283,000	1,223,000	2,299,000
Royal Botanical Gardens—Kew	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	770,000
Sustainable Development Commission[3]	—	—	—	738,713	360,517
Commission for Rural Communities	0	0	0	0	0

n/a = Not available

[1] DEFRA core—2005-06 and 2006-07 as reported in Department report for management and business consultancy. From 2007-08, as defined by Office of Government Commerce category codes and reported in the public sector procurement expenditure survey. 2009-10 subject to final verification before the PSPES submission in October 2010.

[2] Formerly Central Science Laboratory. Figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 include consultancy costs for start up of FERA.

[3] SDC formed in 1 January 2009 and figures include consultancy costs for start up.

[4] GLA for 2005-06 includes consultancy costs for start up.

[5] NE for 2006-07 includes consultancy costs for start up.

[6] RBG Kew—To provide a consultancy figure for earlier years would incur disproportionate cost.

Notes:

AH—formed in October 2005 and data not available for 2005-06 and 2006-07 without disproportionate cost. 2007-08 and 2008-09 as reported for PSPES and 2009-10 as reported in accounts.

RPA—With effect from 2007-08 RPA does not employ consultants or advisers. From then all external resources employed to provide expert opinion, including holding interim positions, are recognised and accounted for as contractors. The figures are consistent with a previous answer supplied to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron), 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 8-10W.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by her Department was in each of the last five years. [12659]

Richard Benyon: The rates paid to consultants reflect the scope and duration of the work; the grade and experience of the consultant(s) chosen for the work; and supply market conditions.

The Department does not hold information centrally on the daily rates paid to consultants hired by the Department in each of the last five years. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which her Department is responsible in each region of England was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12476]

Richard Benyon: Expenditure on the purchase and/or lease of vehicles for the last three financial years and the planned expenditure for 2010-11 are shown in the following table. Main delivery NDPBs have been included, to go to them all would incur disproportionate cost.

				£000
		Actuals		*Planned*
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
DEFRA core	97	847	291	0
Executive agencies				
Animal Health	155	87	88	105
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	64	92	89	<80
Rural Payments Agency[1]	n/a	670	837	550
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	91	35	34	123
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	0	0	0	0
Marine and Fisheries Agency	0	0	0	0
Food and Environment Research Agency	73	0	102	0[2]

	2007-08	Actuals 2008-09	2009-10	£000 Planned 2010-11
Non-departmental public bodies				
Environment Agency[2]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	0	0	25	27
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	0	0	0	0
National Forestry Company	0	0	0	0
Natural England[3]	278	757	356	0
Royal Botanical Gardens—Kew[4]	10	108	19	10
Sustainable Development Commission	0	0	0	0
Commission For Rural Communities	0	0	0	0

n/a = not available

[1] RPA lease all vehicles. Figures shown are the cost for leasing and maintenance costs, but exclude fuel and road fund licence costs.

[2] Environment Agency: The capital purchase cost of vehicles (commercial) deployed to support operational activities in the Environment Agency for each of the last three financial years and the planned expenditure for 2010-11 is as follows:
2007-08: £2,000,000
2008-09: £4,269,000
2009-10: £2,963,000
2010-11 forecast: £1,878,000
The majority of Environment Agency commercial vehicles support flood risk management activities, while lease cars are used to support environmental regulatory and advisory roles which involve visits to customer sites.
Lease Car expenditure is as follows:
2007-08: £11,754,470
2008-09: £12,895,932
2009-10: £12,919,802
2010-11 forecast: £12,111,000
These figures do not include service, repair and maintenance, fuel and insurance costs.

[3] Natural England provides pool cars for people to use, primarily on front line delivery activity, and where public transport is not a viable option. Pool cars are currently located at most office locations. NE National Nature Reserves (NNR) operations also have specific requirements for vehicles which are used in the management and maintenance of the reserve. No capital budget has been provided for the purchase of vehicles in 201-11.

[4] RBG Kew expenditure excludes gardens equipment (which includes tractors/JCBs but also mowers, trailers, composting equipment etc.)

Departmental Public Expenditure

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future funding of the *(a)* Darwin Initiative and *(b)* Overseas Territories Challenge Fund. [14152]

Richard Benyon: The next round (Round 18) of Darwin funding was postponed in July, pending the completion of the Government spending review. A letter explaining the situation from the chairman of the Darwin Advisory Committee (DAC) is available on the Darwin Initiative website.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many external training courses were attended by staff of her Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13314]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 relating to *(a)* private drains and sewers, *(b)* sustainable urban drainage, *(c)* reservoir safety, *(d)* flood and coastal risk management and *(e)* surface water management will come into effect. [12082]

Richard Benyon: As I announced at the Local Government Floods Forum Conference on 29 July, the transfer of private sewers will be implemented through regulations under the Water Industry Act 1991. We published a consultation on draft regulations to provide for the transfer of private sewers on 26 August, and intend to consult with interested parties on related standards for new sewers later in the autumn.

We plan to consult later this year on the implementation of the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, including a proposed timetable for commencement.

We intend that the reservoir provisions in Schedule 4 of the Act should be brought into effect in 2011-12 in respect of those reservoirs already regulated under the Reservoirs Act 1975. This will enable a more risk-based approach to be developed and lead to some deregulation. The extension of regulation to smaller reservoirs will be implemented some time later and will be proportionate to the risk that they pose.

Implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will begin with the laying of the Flood and Water Management Act (Commencement No.1 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010 in September. We intend that responsibilities for local authorities to manage local flood risks, including surface water, will be the subject of further regulations from April 2011.

Food Supply: Ombudsman

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to establish *(a)* an ombudsman for the food supply chain and *(b)* a Red Meat Road Map. [12375]

Mr Paice: On 3 August the Government published their response to their consultation to take forward the establishment of a body to monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice. They announced that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will bring forward new legislation in order to set up the Grocery Code Adjudicator, which will reside within the Office of Fair Trading. The proposal will require primary legislation and BIS will be seeking Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee approval to publish a draft Bill later this year with the intention of bringing forward a Bill in the second Session.

We are working closely with the beef, lamb and pig meat sector bodies on the development of environmental roadmaps. These industry-led roadmaps concentrate on mitigation of the impacts of climate change and will form the basis of each sector's contribution to the agricultural industry's Greenhouse Gas Action Plan.

The first roadmap for pig meat, co-ordinated by the British Pig Executive (BPEX), and part two of the beef and sheep meat roadmap, co-ordinated by the English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX), are due to be published this autumn.

Food: Labelling

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the European Parliament's proposals to require food from animals which have not been stunned prior to slaughter to be labelled with that information, with particular reference to the likely effects on faith groups of the implementation of those proposals. [12136]

Mr Paice: To date, no discussions have taken place with ministerial colleagues on this specific amendment proposed by the European Parliament.

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the European Parliament's proposals to expand the remit of EU food labelling regulation to include the provision of labelling information on methods of animal slaughter. [12154]

Mr Paice: The Government are still considering their position on this and the other amendments proposed by the European Parliament.

Livestock: Transport

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to revise the rules covering the movement of livestock to reduce the administrative burden on farmers. [12526]

Mr Paice: DEFRA recently published a consultation document on the simplification of livestock movement rules and holding identification in England. 41 responses were received by the closing date of 30 June. Once these responses have been analysed, a summary will be published. Further action following the consultation will depend on the outcome of the Spending Review and on any recommendations the taskforce on farming regulation may make.

Plants: Research

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to support research into the management of *(a)* Japanese knotweed and *(b)* other alien plant species. [13198]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has been one of the main funding partners in a long-running project researching the possibility of identifying a biological control agent for Japanese knotweed. A controlled release of the highly specialist psyllid—"Aphalara itadori"—is now under way to help control this plant. If successful, this insect should restrict its growth, slow its capacity to spread vigorously and enhance the effectiveness of management effort, although it would not eradicate it altogether.

Other management-related research work on alien plant species supported by DEFRA includes a collaborative project with the Netherlands on four shared invasive aquatic non-native plants; scoping biological control for a further four highly damaging non-native species of plant; and developing a support protocol and methodology to enable the Overseas Territories to access invertebrate plant pest identification expertise within the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera).

DEFRA, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly launched a comprehensive Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain in May 2008. It has been described in a 2010 European Environment Agency report as an outstanding national response to the issue in Europe. The Strategy provides a high-level framework for a range of activities including research and is being implemented on a prioritised basis. We have now started work on developing a clearer statement of evidence needs to support its continued implementation. This will include management-related research and we will be taking this forward in collaboration with key partners.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will make it her policy to seek the introduction of an intra-EU trade ban on eggs produced by hens housed in conventional cages if more time is given to other Member States to phase-out conventional cages from January 2012; [12155]

(2) what discussions she has had with egg producers on the introduction of a No. 41 production code for enriched cage eggs; [12156]

(3) what steps she is taking to support the egg industry; and if she will make a statement. [12157]

Mr Paice: The UK Government remain entirely committed to the conventional cage ban coming into force on 1 January 2012 and to supporting industry during this transitional stage. We will continue to work with the Commission and industry to ensure that everything is done to protect UK producers who have already made significant investment to comply with the legislation and to maintain the ban on eggs and egg products produced by hens housed in conventional cages across the EU.

This could be by way of an intra-Community ban on the trade of eggs produced by hens housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012, so they may only be sold in the member state of production for a limited period only; and/or the introduction of a code '4' in EU marketing regulations to distinguish eggs produced by hens housed in enriched systems, from those housed in conventional cages that will remain classified as code '3'.

I will be meeting the British Egg Industry Council shortly to discuss this and other matters.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with representatives of the egg industry on implementation of an action plan with the objective of ending the practice of beak trimming; and if she will make a statement. [12427]

Mr Paice: On 1 March a preliminary meeting of the Core Stakeholder group for beak trimming was held to consider the consultation documents and raise issues of concern by industry and welfare groups in advance of the deadline for consultation responses.

The Beak Trimming Action Group, comprising key interested parties, will meet before the end of the year to discuss any new scientific research and explore all possible options on how to manage laying hens without the need to beak trim.

Sheep: Tagging

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent reports she has received on the adequacy of supply of tags for the electronic identification of sheep; and if she will make a statement. [12131]

Mr Paice: DEFRA officials are in regular contact with tag suppliers to monitor supply. In the spring, delivery times were up to six weeks, due in part to a shortage of transponders following the Icelandic volcanic eruption which disrupted air freight. These delays have reduced significantly and supply times in most cases now vary from five days to three weeks.

DEFRA officials have worked closely with sheep industry bodies to ensure keepers order their tags promptly and in good time before they need to move their sheep.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures for the electronic identification of sheep. [12203]

Mr Paice: Electronic identification (EID) of sheep is an EU requirement, but the administration and implementation of it in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is an issue for devolved administrations.

In England, EID was implemented on 31 December 2009. It is too early for any implementation assessment to be made, although DEFRA officials are in regular contact with the sheep industry and are reviewing issues with them as they arise.

We have identified some issues which require further discussion with the Commission and I have invited EU Commissioner Dalli to visit the UK in the autumn to see at first hand the practical challenges we are facing.

Sustainable Development Commission

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 32-3WS, on her Department's arm's length bodies, how the functions of the Sustainable Development Commission will be undertaken after its closure; and if she will make a statement. [12925]

Mr Paice: The Sustainable Development Commission's four existing functions are watchdog, policy advisory, capacity-building and advocacy.

Watchdog

There are already many organisations and commentators who will continue to hold the Government to account and we believe that a dedicated watchdog body is unnecessary. Minsters are accountable to Parliament and we will continue to publish the data necessary for such scrutiny.

Policy-advisory

Where the expertise does not already exist internally, DEFRA and other Departments commission additional expert advice from a range of organisations, of which the Commission is one. In the future, where necessary, we expect policy teams to continue to do this through the usual procurement process.

Capacity-building

DEFRA leads across Government on sustainable development. We will consider how best to do this taking account of this Government's priorities.

Advocacy

DEFRA will continue to champion sustainable development in policymaking across Government. We will build our internal capability and seek to work with the many external organisations already working within this field and who can support us in doing this.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department and its predecessor spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12983]

Richard Benyon: The Department was formed in 2001; to seek information prior to this date would incur disproportionate cost.

From data held centrally and by the delivery agencies, the following shows expenditure on taxis since 2005-06.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DEFRA core	[1]—	268,095	346,458	299,401	153,308
Animal health[2]	6,137	25,823	34,447	35,560	39,633
Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Rural Payments Agency	40,225	34,298	44,052	59,273	42,925
Veterinary Laboratories Agency[4]	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	43,543
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	4,730	5,789	5,533	3,155	7,192
Marine and Fisheries Agency[5]	2,630	5,022	5,095	5,432	10,915
Food & Environment Research Agency[6]	16,395	19,242	18,301	20,389	20,707

[1] Would incur disproportionate cost.

[2] AH formed October 2005.

[3] CEFAS taxi fares are charged to a generic travel code, which includes other types of fares such as rail, air and bus. Obtaining costs allocated solely to taxi fares would incur disproportionate cost.

[4] VLA 2009-10 covers period September 2009 to March 2010. Earlier details not available without disproportionate cost.

[5] MFA formed October 2005. Became a non-departmental public body 1 March 2010.

[6] FERA - formed 1 April 2009, earlier data for Central Science Laboratory.

Trees

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in establishing a national tree planting campaign; and how much will be spent on the campaign in each of the next four years. [13242]

Mr Paice: The National Tree Planting campaign is an important part of the coalition Government's aims to enable local people to shape, improve and transform their communities, as part of the Big Society. The campaign will build on the work of many individuals and organisations to improve local quality of life by assisting local communities to plant trees in areas in which they are most needed and will be most valued.

We are considering the options for the campaign, including funding, in discussion with civil society organisations and local government and will be looking for support from the private sector. We anticipate the scope and arrangements for the campaign will be announced by the end of the year.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department and its predecessor spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12820]

Richard Benyon: The accounting systems used by the Department and its predecessors do not record purchases down to the level of individual items and therefore the requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Loans

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to encourage banks to offer a wider choice of short-term loans for vulnerable customers as an alternative to high-interest payday loans. [13319]

Mr Davey: This is a complex issue with recent studies showing that some consumers are using payday loans to avoid sometimes higher unarranged borrowing costs charged by mainstream lenders such as banks. At present, the Government have no plans to encourage mainstream lenders to provide short-term loans as an alternative to payday loans.

BIS will be issuing a formal call for evidence later in the year on consumer credit and personal insolvency. The call for evidence will include the opportunity for industry and consumer groups to provide evidence on how they think the findings and recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading recent review of high cost credit, which included payday lending, should be taken forward.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what safeguards he plans to introduce to reduce levels of dependency on high-cost credit. [13320]

Mr Davey: I recently announced a joint BIS and HM Treasury review of consumer credit and personal insolvency and my Department will be issuing a formal call for evidence later in the year.

The Office of Fair Trading has recently published the findings and recommendations from its review of high-cost credit products, including pawnbroking, payday loans and home collected credit. It concluded that in some respects, the markets for high-cost credit can be seen to be working reasonably well, although it identified some areas of concern. The OFT made a number of recommendations to Government to improve the sector.

Our call for evidence will give industry and consumer groups the opportunity to provide evidence on how they think the findings of the OFT review should be taken forward.

Business: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely length of time between the *(a)* abolition of Advantage West Midlands and *(b)* introduction of local enterprise partnerships in the West Midlands; and what steps he plans to take to encourage business growth in the West Midlands in this period. [12096]

Mr Prisk: The Government have asked for outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships by 6 September 2010. We are determined that the transition to new arrangements will be orderly and are not planning that there should be a gap in the support for business growth during this period. The forthcoming White Paper on sub-national economic growth will set out our approach in more detail.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage private sector investment in the West Midlands. [12097]

Mr Prisk: The Department's strategy for sustainable growth set out our approach to promoting investment across the country.

The Government believe that business is the driver of economic growth and innovation, and that we need to take urgent action to boost enterprise and build a new and more responsible economic model, to create a fairer and more balanced economy where new businesses and economic opportunities are more evenly shared between regions and industries.

The Government are committed to renewing and strengthening local economies. We will do this by enabling local authorities located in natural economic areas, in conjunction with business, to form local enterprise partnerships. Local Enterprise Partnerships will therefore be developed from the local level rather than being imposed by central Government giving the private sector of the West Midlands the opportunity to direct economic development policy within their respective partnerships.

The Regional Growth Fund, announced at Budget, a £1 billion fund that will initially operate in 2011/12 and 2012/13 will provide support for projects that offer significant potential for sustainable economic growth and can create new private sector employment. It will be key to recovery across all parts of England, including the West Midlands, to get the private sector going so that it can lead stimulation of the economy as quickly as possible.

Business: Wi-fi

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department issues on the classification of businesses in the hospitality industry offering free wi-fi access to the internet as *(a)* communications providers and *(b)* internet service providers under the terms of the Digital Economy Act 2010. [12099]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* The Department has not yet offered guidance on classification under the Digital Economy Act 2010 to those providing free wi-fi accesses to the internet. The relevant requirements of the Digital Economy Act will not have any effect until a code has been approved by Ofcom and Parliament. Ofcom is reviewing the responses to its consultation on its draft obligations code. It will issue a statement when this review is completed with a view to approving a code by the end of the year.

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to prevent illegal file-sharing by those accessing the internet through free wi-fi hot spots; and if he will make a statement. [12100]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* The relevant provisions in the Digital Economy Act 2010 are intended to address the online infringement of copyright irrespective of whether such activity is undertaken via a personal internet connection or through a commercially—or publicly—provided wi-fi network.

Many providers of public wi-fi networks, such as universities, already take measures to prevent infringement which go far beyond what the Act requires, but the Act brings regulatory certainty and consistency.

However, the Government recognise that more clarification is needed. The Initial Obligations Code, on which Ofcom has recently consulted, will set out how this will work in practice.

Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of credit card companies on the introduction of an annual dormancy fee; and whether he plans to bring forward proposals to cap such charges. [13329]

Mr Davey: I have had no discussions with representatives of credit card companies on the introduction of annual dormancy fees and at this time the Government have no plans to introduce proposals to introduce a cap on these charges.

The Office of Fair Trading is not aware of receiving any consumer complaints regarding these types of fees. The Government would be concerned if dormancy fees were set at an amount that did more than cover the reasonable cost to the card issuer of maintaining and administering the dormant account for the relevant period. It is also important that the card issuer is transparent about the existence of such fees and should take appropriate steps to ensure that the card holder is made fully aware of the possible application of a dormancy fee prior to them entering into the credit agreement.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [12665]

Mr Davey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3631]

Mr Davey: BIS is participating in the centrally-led programme of renegotiation with Government's key suppliers. However, the detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3653]

Mr Davey: BIS is participating in the centrally-led programme of renegotiation with Government's key suppliers. The Department constantly reviews the contracts it has for ICT and facilities management services. Renegotiation of these contracts has so far realised annual savings of £8.8 million. Further savings are anticipated.

Other than this information on ICT and facilities management services, the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department paid in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12331]

Mr Davey: This Department and its predecessors have paid the following amounts in rent in the last five financial years:

£ million

	Total	*Yorks/Humber*	*East Midlands*	*North West*	*South West*	*Scotland*	*London*
2005/06	31.25	0.16	0.03	0.03	0.04	1.15	29.84
2006/07	35.13	0.19	0.03	0.03	0.04	1.33	33.51
2007/08	36.17	0.21	0.05	0.02	0.05	1.27	34.57
2008/09	37.33	0.21	0.04	—	—	1.28	35.8
2009/10	38.25	0.24	0.05	—	—	1.12	36.84

The above figures are inclusive of VAT. They do not include charges paid to other Government Departments under MOTO (memorandum of terms of occupation) agreements, nor do they include income obtained from tenants (mainly other Government Departments).

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13328]

Mr Davey: Training budgets are not held centrally but delegated to line managers and business units. Decisions are made locally on how the money is spent and this information is not held centrally. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Technology

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Digital Economy Act 2010 on public intermediaries, with particular reference to libraries and universities; and if he will make a statement. [12101]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* We considered carefully the position of public intermediaries, including libraries and universities, under the Act. Libraries and universities have taken the opportunity to contribute to the Initial Obligations Code discussions—the subject of a formal consultation by Ofcom, which closed on 30 July 2010. Ofcom is now in the process of reviewing the responses it has received from all stakeholders and will publish a formal statement when the review is complete.

It is in everyone's interest to ensure that their connection or network is not misused. Intermediaries will need to continue to play their role by taking precautions and taking measures to tackle infringement in order to ensure that their connections are not used by individuals to copy material and avoid any repercussions.

Post Offices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what new sources of revenue for post offices have been identified by his Department; and what progress has been made in establishing such sources. [13236]

Mr Davey: As set out in 'The Coalition: our programme for government', we will ensure that post offices are allowed to offer a wide range of services in order to sustain the network, and we are working with Post Office Ltd and other Government Departments to develop new sources of revenue.

Students: Loans

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of former UK students living overseas who owe money to the Student Loans Company; what estimate he has made of the *(a)* total amount owed by such people and *(b)* average amount owned per person; and if he will make a statement. [12425]

Mr Willetts: The latest estimate of the number of former English domiciled students with income contingent loans who are now living overseas was 28,600 as at 30 April 2010. A breakdown is shown within the following table:

Breakdown	*Number*
Above the earnings threshold and repaying	9,200
Below the earnings threshold for that country	16,000
Above the earnings threshold and in arrears	2,200
Not provided income details and are now considered to be in arrears	1,200

(a) The total value of their student loans was £327.2 million.

(b) The average amount owed per person is £11,450. This may exclude the effect of recent repayments made via the tax system before the borrowers moved overseas, as such repayments may not have been reflected in the borrower's Student Loans Company accounts yet.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Tobacco

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to assist farmers in Africa to grow crops other than tobacco. [12902]

Mr O'Brien: Increasing the productivity of small farmers in growing alternative crops has an important part to play not only in improving food security, but also as a building block for wealth creation. The Department for International Development (DFID) is already supporting such work in a number of African countries.

In the coming months, DFID will be reviewing its aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate growth towards the Millennium Development Goals. Aid spending on agriculture in Africa is being reviewed as part of this process.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13041]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following amounts on reimbursement of staff expenses since financial year 2004-05. Information for previous years and for financial year 2008-09 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2004-05	816,744.81
2005-06	903,497.87
2006-07	840,098.98
2007-08	848,271.67
2008-09	[1]
2009-10	712,773.52

[1] In 2008-09, DFID moved to a new financial management system. We suspect that duplicate entries exist in the two systems in this year. To determine which amounts have been entered into both systems, and the total amount paid in reimbursements would incur disproportionate cost.

The 10 highest value claims in each of these years were as follows:

	£
2004-05	2,493.06
	2,376.00
	1,832.68
	1,565.26
	1,557.31
	1,524.22
	1,522.04
	1,382.19
	1,369.18
	1,367.50
2005-06	3,146.08
	2,237.06
	2,002.71
	1,900.44
	1,869.09
	1,824.55
	1,749.74
	1,642.02
	1,619.39
	1,616.12
2006-07	2,986.13
	2,979.42
	2,294.29
	1,836.73
	1,767.48
	1,762.54
	1,674.89
	1,653.62
	1,596.29
	1,457.14
2007-08	4,223.50
	3,435.89
	2,629.28
	2,609.17
	2,184.80
	1,841.59
	1,572.42
	1,568.99
	1,551.49
	1,508.24
2009-10	3,510.01
	2,419.46
	2,154.49
	2,042.03
	2,038.80
	1,805.61
	1,783.45
	1,779.41
	1,597.48
	1,594.72

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13307]

Mr Duncan: Information available for payments made to all UK suppliers within 10 days of receipt of invoice is:

Month	*Percentage*
July 2010	96.59
August 2010	96.85

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13308]

Mr Duncan: Information on the number of external training courses attended by staff is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since the Department does not have a learning management system it is very difficult to collate data from 100 sub-departments. We do recognise the need to be able to centrally store, acquire and collate various types of human resources (HR) data to enable reporting—for example for parliamentary questions like one. Whilst it is possible to access data from a variety of different and diverse systems, this is not without considerable and often disproportionate effort. To that end we are working on the design and build of a new HR management system, incorporating the capability to provide (at short notice) a variety of learning and development reports, including those relating to further and higher education. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to developing countries to assist them to provide free healthcare to their people. [12380]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) always seeks to ensure that the benefits of health services are distributed equitably when investing in health systems in developing countries. In addition to increasing the quality and supply of services, DFID works closely with governments and other partners to make sure that these services reach the poor and vulnerable. This requires giving special attention to removing the barriers that prevent those most in need from accessing the care they require, including financial barriers for the poorest.

The Secretary of State has recently commissioned a review of DFID's aid programmes, including support to the health sector, to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department is providing to developing countries for training of *(a)* midwives and *(b)* other health care workers in 2010-11. [12381]

Mr O'Brien: As a part of its health systems strengthening work, DFID funds *(a)* midwives and *(b)* other health care workers through various channels including through bilateral programmes, direct support to national health sector plans of partner countries, and multilateral organisations and global funding instruments such as the World Bank, and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria.

At central level, DFID supports the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to provide training to midwives and doctors in five countries. We also support the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) to deliver the UK International Health Links Funding Scheme, which promotes partnerships that strengthen capacity and improve health worker capacity in developing countries through training. DFID has provided £3 million for this programme which is funded jointly with the Department of Health (DH).

DFID is currently developing a new Health Partnership Scheme to enable UK based health workers to support human resources training in partner countries. The programme will be funded up to £5 million per year.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage provision of *(a)* healthcare facilities and *(b)* medicines for emergency care in developing countries. [12383]

Mr O'Brien: The core of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) work on health in developing countries is to support national partners in their efforts to build effective and accessible health services, including emergency healthcare and medicines, to prevent, identify and treat the major causes of ill health and preventable mortality.

DFID supports the planning and policy making process in our partner countries, but it is for national partners to identify their priorities for healthcare provision.

Malaria

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the oral answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 423, on malaria, what estimate he has made of the effect on other aspects of his Department's annual health budget of his commitment to spend £500 million per year on malaria. [11654]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Tackling malaria is a priority for the Government. We will increase our support to reduce the burden of illness and death caused by malaria in the poorest countries. We are also focusing on reproductive, maternal and newborn health and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing all our aid programmes and a spending review is under way across Government.

Once the reviews are complete, we will set out details of how we plan to spend our commitment of up to £500 million on malaria, along with our work on maternal, reproductive and newborn health and other priorities to achieve the MDGs.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the oral answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 423, on malaria, by what date he intends to fulfil his commitment to spend £500 million per year on malaria. [11655]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing all our aid programmes and a spending review is under way across Government.

Once the reviews are complete, we will set out details of how we plan to spend our commitment of up to £500 million on malaria.

Malawi: International Assistance

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Scotland on funding for his Department's projects in Malawi. [11290]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development and the Scottish Executive's Minister for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP, held discussions on development issues in mid June. They agreed to increased co-operation and co-ordination, underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding, including work in Malawi. There have been no discussions on this issue between the Secretary of State for International Development and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Department for International Development (DFID) officials are in regular contact with the Scottish Executive and the Scotland Office regarding our aid programme in Malawi.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12984]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following on taxi fares since financial year 2002-03. Figures prior to 2002-03 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	£
2009-10	255,479
2008-09	[1]100,534
2007-08	195,483
2006-07	243,363
2005-06	328,383
2004-05	243,300
2003-04	143,447
2002-03	105,908

[1] In 2008-09, DFID moved to a new financial management system. We suspect that duplicate entries exist in the two systems in this year. To determine which amounts have been entered into both systems, and the total amount paid in reimbursements would incur disproportionate cost.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

UN Population Fund and IPPF

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what records his Department holds on the uses to which the core funds of *(a)* the United Nations Population Fund and *(b)* the International Planned Parenthood Federation have been put over the latest two years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [12223]

Mr O'Brien: The use of core funds given to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is governed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNFPA and the Department for International Development (DFID). This MOU states that the funding should be used in support of the objectives set out in UNFPA's Strategic Plan, which they report against annually. DFID also annually assesses UNFPA's performance on a selected range of targets through a separate performance framework.

Guidance on the use of core funds to the International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF) is contained in a Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA) which was agreed in 2008. The PPA states that funding is provided in support of reproductive health.

Improving sexual and reproductive health and rights for women in developing countries is a priority for the Government. This includes better access to modern methods of family planning methods and promoting women's choices.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by *(a)* the United Nations Population Fund and *(b)* the International Planned Parenthood Federation in (i) China, (ii) Uzbekistan, (iii) South Africa and (iv) Namibia on reproductive health issues in each of the last two years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [12224]

Mr O'Brien: This question seeks detailed information on the activities of two organisations external to the UK Government and it is therefore not appropriate for the Department for International Development (DFID) to answer. My hon. Friend may find the requested information on the websites of these organisations or by approaching the organisations directly.

HEALTH

Hospital Car Parking Charges

17. **Gavin Shuker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's response to the consultation on hospital car parking charges. [13163]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's response to the NHS Car Parking Consultation will be published later this month.

Community Hospitals

18. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how new community hospitals will be funded under the proposed new commissioning structures. [13164]

Mr Simon Burns: Under our proposals for new commissioning arrangements, GP consortia will commission the great majority of national health service services for their patients, including, where appropriate, community hospital services. Arrangements for capital funding will be informed by the responses to the White Paper consultation.

Ambulance Services

19. **Mr Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisation will have responsibility for provision of ambulance services under his proposals for the reform of the national health service; and if he will make a statement. [13165]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the proposals for reform, ambulance services will be commissioned by GP consortia. Consultations on the proposals are however under way, including one on commissioning arrangements. The services themselves will continue to be provided by national health service ambulance trusts and, in the case of patient transport, trusts and private providers.

Cancer Treatment: Blackpool

20. **Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on cancer patients in Blackpool of ending targets on health outcomes. [13166]

Mr Burstow: This Government have retained cancer waiting time targets. We are currently consulting on a new Outcomes Framework for the national health service, which will increase transparency and accountability and end the use of targets where there is no clinical justification.

Organ Donor Cards

21. **Karen Bradley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage take-up of organ donor cards. [13167]

Anne Milton: In autumn 2009, NHS Blood and Transplant launched a public awareness campaign to encourage people to join the Organ Donor Register (ODR) and to discuss organ donation with their family. NHS Blood and Transplant also work with the national health service, commercial and third sector organisations to support national and local initiatives on organ donation.

Public Health Responsibilities

22. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources he plans to allocate to local authorities in respect of their proposed new public health responsibilities. [13168]

Anne Milton: The Department will create a ring-fenced public health budget. Within this, local directors of public health will be responsible for health improvement funds, allocated according to relative population health need.

Work is currently under way to determine baseline spend on public health. Details of the scope of the budget and allocation process will be announced in due course.

Wiltshire Primary Care Trust

23. **Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the running costs of Wiltshire primary care trust were in the most recent period for which figures are available. [13169]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect a single figure in respect of running costs from primary care trusts (PCTs). For the purposes of this question, the Department has estimated the running costs of Wiltshire PCT in 2009-10 to be £40.232 million. This estimate, which represents 6% of the PCT's total gross expenditure, is derived from the organisation's own accounts.

GP Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase provision of GPs' out-of-hours services. [13152]

Mr Lansley: General practitioner (GP) out-of-hours services should be provided as part of the 24/7 integrated urgent care service in each area. The national health service locally, through GP-led commissioning, in consultation with local authorities, will determine how to ensure access to high quality urgent care, including a GP service out-of-hours.

Vaccines: Pandemics

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that appropriate numbers of anti-virals and vaccine doses are purchased in respect of future pandemics. [13170]

Anne Milton: The National Framework for pandemic flu is being revised in the light of the swine flu pandemic and other evidence so that we remain as well prepared as possible to respond to any future influenza pandemic.

We continue to hold a stockpile of antivirals for over 50% of the population based on the stocks bought for pandemic preparedness prior to, and at the time of, the swine flu outbreak.

We are considering our requirements for future vaccine agreements, taking account of the findings of the independent review of the UK response to the 2009 influenza pandemic.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average vacancy rates were in accident and emergency departments of each London acute healthcare trust for *(a)* middle grade doctors and *(b)* nurses in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [12607]

Mr Simon Burns: Vacancy data are not collected in the format requested. The following tables display *(a)* vacancy rates and numbers which have lasted three months or more and *(b)* total vacancy rates and numbers for doctors, consultants and qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting positions in each London acute hospital trust as at 30 March 2010.

Three month vacancy rates and numbers for all hospital and community health services (HCHS) doctors (excluding doctors in training and equivalents) and qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the London strategic health authority area and by each acute Trust

		All HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Consultants*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Three month vacancy rate %	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*	*Three month vacancy rate %*	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
England		1.5	674	43,288	49,525	1.1	349	32,679	34,910
Of which:									
London		2.2	186	8,116	9,398	1.7	114	6,449	7,142
Of which:									
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	RF4	2.2	7	318	338	0.5	1	212	218
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVL	0.4	1	249	280	0.5	1	197	214
Barts and The London NHS Trust	RNJ	0.0	0	383	463	0.0	0	355	417
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	RG3	1.2	2	160	175	0.0	0	115	124
Chelsea And Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	RQM	0.0	0	181	214	0.0	0	154	175
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC3	0.0	0	86	100	0.0	0	63	67
Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust	RVR	0.0	0	259	297	0.0	0	200	220
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	RP4	0.0	0	225	248	0.0	0	211	232
Guy's And St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust	RJ1	10.3	49	430	470	10.8	49	408	432
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	RAS	0.0	0	120	130	0.0	0	87	91
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQX	2.1	2	91	100	2.5	2	79	86
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	RYJ	0.0	0	624	819	0.0	0	527	637
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	RJZ	6.3	30	445	516	1.1	4	368	408
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	2.0	3	143	168	0.0	0	121	132
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ2	1.8	2	110	119	2.0	2	96	103
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ6	0.0	0	152	185	0.0	0	111	115
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RP6	0.0	0	103	115	0.0	0	76	82
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	RNH	14.1	17	103	109	1.3	1	77	81
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	1.0	1	100	118	1.2	1	82	87
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	0.0	0	239	268	0.0	0	191	208
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	RG2	2.0	2	98	106	2.2	2	89	91
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	RGZ	0.0	0	88	97	0.0	0	69	72
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	RT3	2.6	4	147	155	2.8	4	138	144
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL	1.1	3	278	327	0.0	0	255	285

Three month vacancy rates and numbers for all hospital and community health services (HCHS) doctors (excluding doctors in training and equivalents) and qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the London strategic health authority area and by each acute Trust

		All HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Consultants*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Three month vacancy rate %	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*	*Three month vacancy rate %*	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	**RPY**	0.0	0	125	136	0.0	0	108	117
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	**RAN**	0.0	0	56	60	0.0	0	52	55
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	**RJ7**	0.0	0	283	311	0.0	0	269	287
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	**RRV**	0.4	2	501	595	0.0	0	470	525
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	**RFW**	2.9	3	100	113	2.6	2	74	79
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	**RGC**	5.0	7	133	142	1.7	2	116	120
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	**RKE**	0.0	0	116	136	0.0	0	105	118

		Other HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Three month vacancy rate %	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*	*Three month vacancy rate %*	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
England		3.0	325	10,609	14,615	0.7	2,088	315,410	386,112
Of which:									
London		4.1	72	1,667	2,256	1.6	858	55,080	67,326
Of which:									
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	**RF4**	5.4	6	106	120	2.6	48	1,797	2,216
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	**RVL**	0.0	0	52	66	0.5	7	1,452	1,777
Barts and The London NHS Trust	**RNJ**	0.0	0	28	46	0.8	18	2,330	2,641
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	**RG3**	4.2	2	45	51	0.0	0	808	1,043
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	**RQM**	0.0	0	28	39	0.0	0	1,111	1,319
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	**RC3**	0.0	0	23	33	0.0	0	575	726
Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust	**RVR**	0.0	0	60	77	0.7	11	1,430	2,215
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	**RP4**	0.0	0	14	16	0.3	3	1,154	1,317
Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust	**RJ1**	0.0	0	22	38	3.9	125	3,100	3,597
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	**RAS**	0.0	0	32	39	0.4	3	749	1,025
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	**RQX**	0.0	0	12	14	5.1	41	765	1,029
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	**RYJ**	0.0	0	96	182	0.0	0	3,350	3,808
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	**RJZ**	25.3	26	77	108	2.6	57	2,116	2,507

		Other HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Three month vacancy rate %	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*	*Three month vacancy rate %*	*Three month vacancy number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	11.7	3	23	36	0.3	3	872	1,091
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ2	0.0	0	14	16	0.0	0	1,151	1,601
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ6	0.0	0	41	70	0.0	0	300	314
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RP6	0.0	0	27	33	1.4	11	800	947
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	RNH	38.3	16	26	28	0.0	0	657	786
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	0.0	0	18	31	6.8	116	1,584	2,006
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	0.0	0	48	60	0.7	6	820	990
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	RG2	*	0	9	15	0.0	0	519	645
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	RGZ	0.0	0	19	25	0.6	6	983	1,099
Royal Brompton And Harefield NHS Trust	RT3	*	0	9	11	0.0	0	1,677	1,910
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL	11.6	3	23	42	0.5	3	610	734
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	RPY	0.0	0	17	19	2.1	8	369	513
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	RAN	*	0	5	5	0.1	2	2,042	2,509
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ7	0.0	0	14	24	0.0	0	943	1,320
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RRV	6.1	2	31	70	0.0	0	804	965
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	RFW	3.7	1	26	34	0.0	0	2,164	3,013
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGC	22.7	5	17	22	2.1	16	745	904
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	RKE	0.0	0	11	18	2.7	30	1,106	1,334

Three month vacancy:

1. Vacancy data are from the Vacancies Survey 2009.
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March 2009.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which Trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
4. Three month Vacancy Rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
5. Three month Vacancy Rates are calculated using staff in post from the Non-Medical Workforce Census September 2008.
6. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
7. '*' figures where sum of staff in post (as at 30 September 2008) and vacancies (as at 31 March 2009) is less than 10.

Staff in post:

Staff in post data are from the Non-Medical Workforce Census September 2008.

General:

1. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.
3. Strategic Health Authority figures are based on Trusts, and do not necessarily reflect the geographical provision of health care.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Total vacancy rates and numbers for all hospital and community health services (HCHS) doctors (excluding doctors in training and equivalents) and qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the London strategic health authority area and by each acute Trust

		All HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Consultants*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Total vacancies rate %	*Total vacancies number*	*Staff in post (full time equivalents)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*Total vacancies rate %*	*Total vacancies number*	*Staff in post (full time equivalents)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
England		5.2	2,367	43,288	49,525	4.2	1,421	32,679	34,910
Of which:									
London		7.3	639	8,116	9,398	5.8	399	6,449	7,142
Of which:									
Barking, Havering And Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	RF4	9.7	34	318	338	3.6	8	212	218
Barnet And Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVL	0.4	1	249	280	0.5	1	197	214
Barts And The London NHS Trust	RNJ	3.3	13	383	463	0.8	3	355	417
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	RG3	1.8	3	160	175	0.0	0	115	124
Chelsea And Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	RQM	2.7	5	181	214	3.1	5	154	175
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC3	1.1	1	86	100	0.0	0	63	67
Epsom And St Helier NHS Trust	RVR	1.9	5	259	297	2.4	5	200	220
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	RP4	5.5	13	225	248	3.2	7	211	232
Guy's And St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust	RJ1	22.3	124	430	470	23.2	124	408	432
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	RAS	4.8	6	120	130	6.4	6	87	91
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQX	2.1	2	91	100	2.5	2	79	86
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	RYJ	3.3	21	624	819	3.8	21	527	637
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	RJZ	13.9	72	445	516	7.5	30	368	408
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	3.4	5	143	168	1.6	2	121	132
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ2	6.8	8	110	119	7.7	8	96	103
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ6	4.4	7	152	185	5.9	7	111	115
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RP6	9.7	11	103	115	2.6	2	76	82

Total vacancy rates and numbers for all hospital and community health services (HCHS) doctors (excluding doctors in training and equivalents) and qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the London strategic health authority area and by each acute Trust

		All HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Consultants*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Total vacancies rate %	*Total vacancies number*	*Staff in post (full time equivalents)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*Total vacancies rate %*	*Total vacancies number*	*Staff in post (full time equivalents)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	RNH	20.1	26	103	109	1.3	1	77	81
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	7.4	8	100	118	3.5	3	82	87
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	5.1	13	239	268	6.3	13	191	208
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	RG2	8.4	9	98	106	3.3	3	89	91
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	RGZ	21.5	24	88	97	8.0	6	69	72
Royal Brompton And Harefield NHS Trust	RT3	9.8	16	147	155	10.4	16	138	144
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL	9.0	28	278	327	2.1	6	255	285
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	RPY	1.6	2	125	136	1.8	2	108	117
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	RAN	0.0	0	56	60	0.0	0	52	55
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ7	2.1	6	283	311	0.0	0	269	287
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RRV	2.5	13	501	595	0.0	0	470	525
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	RFW	7.4	8	100	113	6.3	5	74	79
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGC	15.8	25	133	142	10.1	13	116	120
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	RKE	5.7	7	116	136	1.9	2	105	118

		Other HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Total vacancies rate %	*Total vacancies number*	*Staff in post (full time equivalents)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*Total vacancies rate %*	*Total vacancies number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
England		8.2	946	10,609	14,615	3.1	10,014	315,410	386,112
Of which:									
London		12.6	240	1,667	2,256	5.1	2,833	55,080	67,326

		Other HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Total vacancies rate %	*Total vacancies number*	*Staff in post (full time equivalents)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*Total vacancies rate %*	*Total vacancies number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
Of which:									
Barking, Havering And Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	RF4	19.7	26	106	120	4.8	91	1,797	2,216
Barnet And Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVL	0.0	0	52	66	3.6	54	1,452	1,777
Barts And The London NHS Trust	RNJ	26.0	10	28	46	6.1	151	2,330	2,641
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	RG3	6.2	3	45	51	1.4	11	808	1,043
Chelsea And Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	RQM	0.0	0	28	39	2.1	24	1,111	1,319
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC3	4.2	1	23	33	1.7	10	575	726
Epsom And St Helier NHS Trust	RVR	0.0	0	60	77	5.1	77	1,430	2,215
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	RP4	29.4	6	14	16	2.0	24	1,154	1,317
Guy's And St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust	RJ1	0.0	0	22	38	14.2	514	3,100	3,597
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	RAS	0.0	0	32	39	8.9	73	749	1,025
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQX	0.0	0	12	14	6.6	54	765	1,029
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	RYJ	0.0	0	96	182	3.8	131	3,350	3,808
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	RJZ	35.1	41	77	108	10.3	242	2,116	2,507
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	11.7	3	23	36	4.4	41	872	1,091
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ2	0.0	0	14	16	0.5	6	1,151	1,601
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ6	0.0	0	41	70	4.8	15	300	314
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RP6	25.1	9	27	33	1.4	11	800	947
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	RNH	49.3	25	26	28	1.1	7	657	786
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	21.5	5	18	31	7.0	120	1,584	2,006

		Other HCHS Doctors (excluding Doctors in Training and Equivalents)				*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*			
		March 2009		*September 2008*		*March 2009*		*September 2008*	
		Total vacancies rate %	*Total vacancies number*	*Staff in post (full time equivalents)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*Total vacancies rate %*	*Total vacancies number*	*(Staff in post) full time equivalent*	*(Staff in post) headcount*
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	0.0	0	48	60	3.4	29	820	990
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	RG2	38.9	6	9	15	2.3	12	519	645
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	RGZ	48.9	18	19	25	0.7	7	983	1,099
Royal Brompton And Harefield NHS Trust	RT3	*	0	9	11	4.5	79	1,677	1,910
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL	49.0	22	23	42	5.1	33	610	734
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	RPY	0.0	0	17	19	3.0	11	369	513
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	RAN	*	0	5	5	0.9	18	2,042	2,509
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ7	29.4	6	14	24	2.0	19	943	1,320
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RRV	29.5	13	31	70	1.8	15	804	965
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	RFW	10.4	3	26	34	4.5	102	2,164	3,013
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGC	41.3	12	17	22	4.0	31	745	904
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	RKE	30.9	5	11	18	6.3	75	1,106	1,334

Total vacancy:

1. Vacancy data are from the Vacancies Survey 2009.
2. Total vacancy information is as at 31 March 2009.
3. Total vacancies are vacancies which Trusts are actively trying to fill (full time equivalents).
4. Total Vacancy Rates are vacancies expressed as a percentage of vacancies plus staff in post.
5. Total Vacancy Rates are calculated using staff in post from the Non-Medical Workforce Census September 2008.
6. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
7. '*' figures where sum of staff in post (as at 30 September 2008) and vacancies (as at 31 March 2009) is less than 10.

Staff in post:

Staff in post data are from the Non-Medical Workforce Census September 2008.

General:

1. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.
3. Strategic Health Authority figures are based on Trusts, and do not necessarily reflect the geographical provision of health care.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Appointments Commission: Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the Appointments Commission stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12578]

Mr Simon Burns: The costs of the Commission's attendance at Civil Service Live July 2010 can be analysed as follows:

	£
Space hire	7,880
Delivery and set up of stand, equipment hire	2,015

	£
Staff travel	664

Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the cancer patient experience survey will form part of the quality accounts of NHS trusts. [12774]

Mr Simon Burns: Quality accounts are annual statements based on the quality improvement objectives chosen by boards of organisations that provide care to national health service patients. Regulations oblige organisations to review all the data available to them. Organisations will be able to use information from the cancer patient experience survey if they identify this as an objective for their organisation.

For the future, quality accounts will evolve to reflect the Government's aim of developing a new culture of leadership and responsibility across the NHS. Following a formal evaluation over the summer, we will consult on how the potential of quality accounts can be better realised, including by:

relating the content to emerging outcome measures and quality standards;

building in third party assurance through external audit: and

extending Quality Accounts to primary and community care providers, following the evaluation of the pilots in North East and East Midlands strategic health authorities.

Proposals will be consulted on in the autumn, with updated regulations and guidance to follow later in the year.

Chlamydia: Screening

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve arrangements for chlamydia screening. [13171]

Anne Milton: Tackling chlamydia screening remains part of Tier 2 of the Vital Signs framework. The revised Operating Framework for 2010-11 published in June 2010 stressed the need for the national health service to ensure that it continues to deliver agreed plans with no reduction in the standards or quality of services, for the rest of the 2010-11 year.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Medical Treatments

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to review its guidelines relating to the treatment of myalgic encephalomyelitis: and if he will make a statement. [12237]

Mr Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) regularly reviews its published guidance. We understand that NICE is currently reviewing its clinical guideline on chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis to determine whether it needs updating and will consult on its review proposals later this year. Further information is available on NICE's website at::

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG53

Dementia

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the national audit of dementia services to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published; and in what format it will be published. [12586]

Mr Burstow: The Department anticipates that the national audit of dementia services will be available in October 2010. The format and how the results will be published is yet to be decided.

Dementia: Drugs

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reduce the use of antipsychotics for the treatment of dementia; and if he will make a statement. [12841]

Mr Burstow: The National Clinical Director for dementia is leading the work to implement the recommendations made by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report into the use of anti-psychotic medicines, which was published in November 2009. The Department is working with the NHS Information Centre to develop an audit of the prescribing of anti-psychotics for people with dementia.

Dementia: Hertfordshire

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with dementia in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Stevenage constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [12839]

Mr Burstow: The information is not held in the format requested.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) gives the numbers of patients on the dementia disease register for the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09. The available figures show the number of those with dementia who are on the register at the end of each year.

Figures are not available for earlier years. Figures for 2009-10 will be published in autumn 2010.

The following table shows the figures for the primary care trusts (PCTs) which cover Hertfordshire.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	2,092	2,204	2,361
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,996	2,030	2,253
Total	4,088	4,234	4,614

Notes:

1. The QOF figures are collected by national health service organisation rather by constituency and so it is not possible to give figures for Stevenage constituency.
2. Figures are not the number of newly diagnosed dementia patients but the number who are on the register at the end of each year.
3. The national QOF was introduced as part of the new general medical services contract on 1 April 2004.
4. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most personal medical services practices also taking part.
5. The published QOF information was derived from the quality management analysis system (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.
6. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national information technology system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.
7. The QMAS captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dementia patients have been prescribed anti-psychotics in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Stevenage constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [12840]

Mr Burstow: No patient details are recorded when a prescription is processed. It is therefore not possible to say how many patients receiving a prescription for an anti-psychotic drug have a diagnosis of dementia.

Information is collected on the number of prescription items for anti-psychotic drugs within sections 4.2.1 ('Antipsychotic drugs') and 4.2.2 ('Antipsychotic depot injections') of the British National Formulary, outlining the number of prescriptions written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in England.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [13058]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is unable to provide the average and highest daily rates paid to consultants in each of the last five years.

The preferred practice of the Department is to negotiate costs for a whole piece of work rather than agreeing individual day rates.

This process provides protection from the financial risks being exposed if day rate based contracting was used. In these instances, although considered when costing the work, commissions are awarded on a total fixed cost basis to reflect the appropriate skills mix and resource required to deliver the work.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13029]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested since 1997 is not available. The estimated expenditure excluding VAT by the Department on vacant properties for each of the past five years is:

	£
2005-06	1,750,000
2006-07	1,325,000
2007-08	950,000
2008-09	850,000
2009-10	4,350,000

The main reason for the increase in 2009-10 is the rationalisation of estate in the arm's length body sector and surplus property being returned to the Department for disposal or sub-let.

The Department is actively seeking to dispose of its interest in those properties that remain vacant.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12809]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold separate records for the numbers and cost of chairs it has purchased since 1997. Information is held in our financial system under a general heading 'furniture and fittings'. To provide the information as requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12721]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department abandoned two information technology (IT) contracts in the last five years.

These were the Fujitsu Local Service Provider contract, terminated in May 2008 with a value of £1,104 million over 10 years and the Fujitsu front line helpdesk, terminated March in 2009 with a value of £55 million over seven years. Both contracts were awarded as part of the National Programme for IT.

Epilepsy

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds (1) for benchmarking purposes on *(a)* emergency hospital readmittance rates for epilepsy, *(b)* median times for a first epilepsy specialist appointment, *(c)* rates of epilepsy misdiagnosis and *(d)* the incidence of deaths caused by epilepsy in (i) England and (ii) other EU member states; [12537]

(2) for benchmarking purposes on comparative and sudden unexpected death rates in epilepsy in *(a)* England and *(b)* other EU member states; [12538]

(3) on the emergency hospital readmittance rate for people with epilepsy. [12539]

Mr Burstow: Statistics on emergency hospital readmissions rates for epilepsy are not routinely produced. The hospital episodes statistics database contains information about admissions to hospital from which bespoke analyses about readmissions can be extracted. However the analysis necessary to calculate readmissions is particularly complicated and would incur disproportionate costs.

Information on the median time for first specialist appointment is not collected.

The rates of epilepsy misdiagnosis are not collected.

The Department does not routinely hold international comparative data. However, World Health Organization age-standardised death rates for epilepsy indicate that the United Kingdom has 1.5 deaths per 100,000 population, compared with the median rate of a comparable set of European countries (the EU-15) of 1.07 deaths per 100,000.

All international comparisons should be interpreted with caution, due to differences in registration systems and coding conventions.

Food Standards Agency

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria the Food Standards Agency takes into account when selecting subjects for public awareness campaigns. [12669]

Anne Milton: The criteria taken into account by the Food Standards Agency when selecting subjects for public awareness campaigns (primarily salt, saturated fat and food hygiene between 2002 and 2010) are:

subject is a key part of the agency's strategic objectives;

subject has a clear public health benefit;

subject offers support to industry (for reformulation in terms of healthier eating and for safer and cleaner commercial kitchens in terms of food hygiene) and is suitable for partnership activity with both industry and non-governmental organisations; and

subject has clear potential for savings in public finance.

General Practitioners

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the proposals in the Health White Paper, how it is planned that GP consortia will be supported to commission appropriate services for *(a)* children with autism and mental health problems and *(b)* other people with complex needs. [12516]

Mr Burstow: To support general practitioner (GP) consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will create an independent NHS Commissioning Board. The board will provide leadership for quality improvement through commissioning. This will include setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, in a way that promotes joint working across health, public health and social care.

GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of national health service services. We will expect consortia to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, and more efficient use of NHS resources. We will be working with the NHS and professional bodies in the transition to the new arrangements to promote multi-professional involvement.

The White Paper also creates a new role for local government in setting the local strategic context for commissioning of health improvement, health and social care. This will be informed by Joint Strategic Needs Assessments which all commissioners will use to guide their commissioning activities.

It is proposed that the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning national and regional specialised services for patients with complex and rare disease. For less rare and complex services we expect GP consortia to commission services for their populations. We are currently consulting on the most appropriate level at which some of these services are commissioned.

The NHS Commissioning Board will also host some clinical commissioning networks, for example for targeted health services for ill and disabled children, to pool specialist expertise.

Further details on the Government's intentions for commissioning and oversight of commissioning decisions can be found in the consultation documents "Commissioning for patients" and "Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health", published on 22 July. Copies have already been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of GP commissioning teams which will be required in *(a)* York and *(b)* North Yorkshire to discharge the commissioning responsibilities currently assigned to the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust; what estimate he has made of the number of staff who will be employed by those teams; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of their operation. [12838]

Mr Simon Burns: We do not wish to be unduly prescriptive about the size of general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia. There have been widespread variations in the size and population coverage of primary care trusts (PCTs), which are currently responsible for commissioning national health service health care services, and there is no evidence to suggest a single 'right' size. Practices will have flexibility within the new legislative framework to form consortia in ways they think will secure the best health care and health outcomes for their patients and locality. The NHS Commissioning Board will, however, need to satisfy itself that consortia are of sufficient size to manage financial risk effectively.

The White Paper laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the NHS is structured and run. The precise costs of the transition to the new system, and of running the new organisation, will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail. We have launched a series of consultations on how the new organisations should be designed, and once the results of this are known we will publish a full impact assessment of the new systems.

The White Paper also makes a commitment to reduce NHS management costs by more than 45% over the next four years, freeing up further resources for front-line care.

The consultation document on new NHS commissioning arrangements "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients", published on 22 July, seeks views on whether there should be a minimum or maximum population size for GP commissioning consortia. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Motor Neurone Disease

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with motor neurone disease in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland

and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and what steps his Department has taken to provide support services for such people. [12830]

Mr Burstow: Information on the number of people diagnosed with motor neurone disease is not collected. However, the National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions (the NSF) estimates that around two new cases of motor neurone disease are diagnosed each year per 100,000 population.

The NSF was developed to address the long-term health and social care needs of people living with neurological conditions, including those with rapidly progressing conditions such as motor neurone disease.

NHS: Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the NHS Choices stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12835]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Choices stand at Civil Service Live 2010 was shared with Directgov and businesslink.gov.uk. The total cost of the stand was £12,165 plus VAT. NHS Choices' contribution to these costs was £4,055 plus VAT.

NHS: ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the National Programme for IT in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [12579]

Mr Simon Burns: The total cost of the national programme for information technology (IT) includes both central costs, and the costs managed by local national health service bodies incurred in implementing the systems, for example in training staff and upgrading computer hardware.

In its report "The National Programme for IT in the NHS: Progress since 2006", published in May 2008, the National Audit Office estimated that some £3.55 billion had been spent on the programme to 31 March 2008. This figure included an estimate for local NHS expenditure, which is not routinely collected in a way that differentiates expenditure on the national programme from other local IT-related expenditure.

Total cumulative expenditure, estimated on the same basis, to 31 March 2009 was £4.738 billion, and to 31 March 2010, £5.829 billion.

NHS: Reorganisation

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will conduct an assessment of the effect of his proposed reforms to the NHS on local authorities, with particular reference to the potential merging of adult social care and health provision. [12628]

Mr Burstow: The Government have not proposed merging adult social care and health provision, although our White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" does propose a new function for local authorities of joining up the commissioning of local national health service services, social care and public health.

The Government are currently consulting on how best to implement the reforms in the White Paper, and have published further details for consultation. As explained in an analytical strategy published alongside the White Paper, the Department is using the consultation period to inform the development of an impact assessment, which will provide a wide-ranging and robust analysis of the proposals, including their impact on local authorities. The impact assessment will be published alongside or shortly after the response to the consultation.

Nutrition

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on machinery of government changes, which nutrition programmes will transfer from the Food Standards Agency to his Department. [12614]

Anne Milton: The following nutrition policy work for England will be transferred to the Department:

lead on nutritional labelling and European Union negotiations;

health claims, dietetic food and food supplements;

calorie information in catering establishments;

reformulation to reduce salt, saturated fat and sugar levels in food and reducing portion size (including in catering);

nutrition surveys and nutrition research; and

scientific advice and secretariat to Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on machinery of government changes, if he will report annually on his Department's progress in respect of those nutrition policy programmes transferred from the Food Standards Agency to his Department. [12616]

Anne Milton: Information about the Department's programmes of work will be provided to Parliament in its annual report.

Salt

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, on machinery of government changes, if he will make it his policy to continue the salt reduction programme when responsibility for that programme transfers from the Food Standards Agency to his Department. [12617]

Anne Milton: The Government recognise the extensive work already carried out to encourage the food industry to reduce levels of salt in food, and the significant achievements that have been made by all sectors of the food industry.

We are committed to improving public health, and we will continue to engage with the food industry on product reformulation.

Smoking: Public Places

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in respect of how many venues his Department has issued an exemption from the ban on smoking in public places since the implementation of that ban. [12584]

Anne Milton: None. Exemptions are listed in the legislation, statutory instrument 2007 No. 765, Public Health England, The Smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007, and therefore cannot be issued on a discretionary basis.

Thromboembolism

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how he plans to develop an indicator for venous thromboembolism reduction to reflect the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard which can be used by the NHS Commissioning Board and GP consortia; [12512]

(2) what *(a)* evidence and *(b)* procedures will be used to define the indicators which will appear in the finalised NHS Outcomes Framework; [12513]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to include reduced venous thromboembolism as an indicator for safe treatment within the first NHS Outcomes Framework. [12555]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's White Paper 'Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published 12 July, set out how the improvement of health care outcomes for patients should be the primary purpose of the national health service.

On 19 July, we launched a public consultation on proposals for developing an NHS Outcomes Framework. 'Transparency in outcomes—a framework for the NHS', seeks views on the structure, and core principles that should underpin the development of the framework as well as the more specific outcome indicators that should be included. The consultation can be accessed via the following link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_117583

and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

The consultation document puts forward proposals for a framework structured around five broad outcome goals or domains.

Domain 1: Preventing people from dying prematurely;

Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions;

Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury;

Domain 4: Ensuring people have a positive experience of care; and

Domain 5: Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm.

Within domain 5, which looks at patient safety, venous thromboembolism (VTE) has been included as an example in the improvement area covering safe treatment. In Annex A (page 59, paragraph 3.63) of the consultation document, the example indicator for VTE measures the incidence of VTE through Hospital Episode Statistics data. To support the achievement of outcomes in all domains of this framework, there will be a suite of Quality Standards setting out what high quality care looks across all major pathways of care.

During the consultation period, the Department will be analysing potential outcome indicators against a set of criteria; which will lead to the selection of 20-30 evidence-based outcome indicators that are clinically relevant and reflect what is important to patients. In the selection of the final indicators for the framework, reference will be made to Quality Standards. This process is described in chapter 3 (page 18, paragraph 3.3-3.63) of the consultation document.

The NHS Outcomes Framework will provide a mechanism by which the Secretary of State for Health can hold the proposed NHS Commissioning Board to account for the outcomes it is securing for patients through its role in allocating resources and overseeing the commissioning process that, in future, will be led locally by general practitioner consortiums. How consortiums are held to account for delivering these outcomes will be a matter for the NHS Commissioning Board to determine, subject to legislation.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to Baroness Thornton of 19 July 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 170-1WA, on health: malnutrition, (1) what changes he plans to make to the nationally-defined goal in the Commission for Quality and Innovation scheme for acute providers for 2011-12 in respect of reducing the incidence of venous thromboembolism by increasing the percentage of patients who must be risk-assessed using the national risk assessment tool before payment is triggered; [12623]

(2) what plans he has to retain for 2011-12 the current proportion of one fifth of the financial value of each acute provider in respect of the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) scheme which is linked to nationally-defined CQUIN goals. [12624]

Mr Simon Burns: We expect to clarify any changes to the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation framework for 2011-12, including the financial value of schemes and whether there will be any nationally defined goals, later this year.

Tobacco

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost was of his Department's tobacco policy team in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [12277]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 890-91W, on tobacco, what the job *(a)* title and *(b)* description is of the seven people employed in the tobacco policy team; and what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of employing those people. [12421]

Anne Milton: The grade titles and pay bands of the seven civil servants employed in the Department's Tobacco Programme are set out in the following table:

Grade	*Whole-time equivalent civil servants in tobacco programme*	*Current inner London pay range (minimum-maximum)*
Deputy Director (SCS1)	0.5	£58,200-£117,800
Grade 6	1.0	£57,967-£73,828
Grade 7	1.5	£46,698-£60,962
Senior Executive Officer	1.0	£35,498-£45,118
Fast Stream Officer	1.0	£28,884-£41,546
Executive Officer	1.0	£23,767-£29,600

Grade	*Whole-time equivalent civil servants in tobacco programme*	*Current inner London pay range (minimum-maximum)*
Administrative Officer	1.0	£19,579-£23,120

Civil servants in the Department's Tobacco Programme are based in London and support Health Ministers to achieve the Government's objectives in the area of tobacco control.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* refurbishment and *(b)* redecoration of the non-residential areas within 1 Carlton Gardens has been undertaken since his appointment; and what the cost to the public purse was in each case. [13206]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has undertaken some required refurbishment and redecoration of the non-residential areas of 1 Carlton Gardens since the appointment of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

The refurbishment and redecoration of the non-residential areas has been undertaken in accordance with lease obligations and as a result of the Quadrennial Inspection of 2009.

We are required under the terms of the fully repairing lease

> "as often as necessary, well and substantially to repair, renew, uphold, clean and keep in repair the demised premises."

The cost for this essential upkeep was met from the FCO Estates maintenance budget as follows.

(a) Refurbishment costs for internal walls damaged by water ingress: £3,271;

(b) Painting, redecoration and some replastering of the stairwell covering three floors: £12,506.

Afghanistan: Religious Freedom

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on the extent of religious freedom in that country. [12041]

Alistair Burt: The Government strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief. We are working to support all individuals who face discrimination and persecution on the basis of religion, wherever they are in the world. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a regular dialogue with the Afghan Government on human rights, including the need to ensure the security of all Afghans, regardless of religion. Article two of the Afghan Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and we expect the Afghan Government to fully implement this. In addition, we will also raise particular cases of concern with the Afghan Government as necessary.

Arms Control

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in negotiations on establishing an International Arms Trade Treaty to limit the sales of arms to unsuitable states. [13228]

Alistair Burt: The UK actively supports the UN process to establish a strong, robust, legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that will establish common international standards for the trade in conventional arms. Negotiation of an ATT began in New York from 12 to 23 July 2010 and good progress has been made. The meeting resulted in the chair of the process, Ambassador Moritan, producing a number of documents that will form a solid basis for negotiations to continue in February 2011. The timetable remains ambitious, but the UK will continue to support efforts to secure this important Treaty.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13298]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) supports the Government's Prompt Payment initiative and since its launch the Department and its agencies have continued to work hard to improve the percentage of supplier invoices paid promptly. This combined performance meant that the FCO paid 96.45% and 95.57% of supplier invoices within 10 days of receipt in July 2010 and August 2010 respectively.

The FCO is aware of the importance of paying suppliers promptly, and makes every effort to pay 80% of supplier invoices within five working days.

Departmental Buildings

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list those overseas properties which his Department shares *(a)* with other United Kingdom departments and *(b)* with foreign Governments. [12187]

Alistair Burt: The information is as follows:

(a) The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) shares its overseas office accommodation with other United Kingdom Government Departments and the British Council in the 164 posts listed as follows. Full address details for the overseas properties involved can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website

www.fco.gov.uk

Abu Dhabi, British Embassy
Abuja, British High Commission
Accra, British High Commission
Addis Ababa, British Embassy
Algiers, British Embassy
Alicante, British Consulate
Almaty, British Embassy Office
Amman, British Embassy

Amsterdam, British Consulate-General
Ankara, British Embassy
Ashgabat, British Embassy
Asmara, British Embassy
Astana, British Embassy
Athens, British Embassy
Baghdad, British Embassy
Bahrain, British Embassy
Baku, British Embassy
Bandar Seri Begawan, British High Commission
Bangkok, British Embassy
Banjul, British High Commission
Barcelona, British Consulate-General
Beijing, British Embassy
Beirut, British Embassy
Belgrade, British Embassy
Berlin, British Embassy
Berne, British Embassy
Bogota, British Embassy
Brasilia, British Embassy
Bratislava, British Embassy
Bridgetown, British High Commission
Brussels, British Embassy
Brussels, UK Permanent Representation to EU
Bucharest, British Embassy
Budapest, British Embassy
Buenos Aires, British Embassy
Cairo, British Embassy
Canberra, British High Commission
Caracas, British Embassy
Castries, British High Commission
Chennai, British Deputy High Commission
Chicago, British Consulate-General
Chisinau, British Embassy
Chongqing, British Consulate-General
Colombo, British High Commission
Copenhagen, British Embassy
Dakar, British Embassy
Damascus, British Embassy
Dar Es Salaam, British High Commission
Dhaka, British High Commission
Doha, British Embassy
Dubai, British Embassy
Dublin, British Embassy
Dushanbe, British Embassy
Dusseldorf, British Consulate-General
Erbil, Office of the British Embassy
Freetown, British High Commission
Gaborone, British High Commission
Geneva, British Consulate General
Geneva, UK Mission to the United Nations
Georgetown, British High Commission
Gibraltar, Office of the Governor
Guangzhou, British Consulate-General
Hanoi, British Embassy
Harare, British Embassy
Havana, British Embassy
Helsinki, British Embassy
Ho Chi Minh City, British Consulate-General
Hong Kong, British Consulate-General
Islamabad, British High Commission
Istanbul, British Consulate-General
Jakarta, British Embassy
Jerusalem, British Consulate-General
Kabul, British Embassy
Kampala, British High Commission
Karachi, British Deputy High Commission
Kathmandu, British Embassy
Khartoum, British Embassy
Kigali, British High Commission
Kingston, British High Commission
Kinshasa, British Embassy
Kolkata, British Deputy High Commission
Kuala Lumpur, British High Commission
Kuwait, British Embassy
Kyiv, British Embassy
La Paz, British Embassy
Lagos, British Deputy High Commission
Lashka Gah, Provincial Reconstruction Team
Lilongwe, British High Commission
Lima, British Embassy
Lisbon, British Embassy
Los Angeles, British Consulate-General
Luanda, British Embassy
Lusaka, British High Commission
Madrid, British Embassy
Malaga, British Consulate
Manila, British Embassy
Melbourne, British Consulate-General
Mexico City, British Embassy
Miami, British Consulate-General
Milan, British Consulate-General
Minsk, British Embassy
Moscow, British Embassy
Montserrat, Office of the Governor
Mumbai, British Deputy High Commission
Muscat, British Embassy
Nairobi, British High Commission
New Delhi, British High Commission
New York, British Consulate General
New York, UK Mission to the United Nations
Nicosia, British High Commission
Oslo, British Embassy
Ottawa, British High Commission
Panama City, British Embassy
Paris, British Embassy
Paris, UK Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Podgorica, British Embassy
Port Louis, British High Commission
Port of Spain, British High Commission
Prague, British Embassy
Pretoria, British High Commission
Pristina, British Embassy
Quito, British Embassy
Rabat, British Embassy
Rangoon, British Embassy
Riga, British Embassy

Rio de Janeiro, British Consulate-General
Riyadh, British Embassy
Rome, British Embassy
Sana'a, British Embassy
Santiago, British Embassy
Santo Domingo, British Embassy
Sao Paulo, British Consulate-General
Sarajevo, British Embassy
Seoul, British Embassy
Shanghai, British Consulate-General
Singapore, British High Commission
Skopje, British Embassy
Sofia, British Embassy
St Petersburg, British Consulate-General
Stockholm, British Embassy
Suva, British High Commission
Taipei, British Trade and Cultural Office
Tallinn, British Embassy
Tangier, British Consulate
Tashkent, British Embassy
Tbilisi, British Embassy
Tehran, British Embassy
Tel Aviv, British Embassy
The Hague, British Embassy
Tirana, British Embassy
Tokyo, British Embassy
Tripoli, British Embassy
Tunis, British Embassy
Ulaanbaatar, British Embassy
Vienna, British Embassy
Vienna, UK Delegation to the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe
Vienna, UK Mission to the United Nations
Vilnius, British Embassy
Warsaw, British Embassy
Washington, British Embassy
Wellington, British High Commission
Yaounde, British High Commission
Yerevan, British Embassy
Zagreb, British Embassy

The main users of the FCO overseas platform are the UK Border Agency, the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the British Council, HM Revenue and Customs, the Metropolitan Police and the Department for Work and Pensions.

(b) Office accommodation shared with foreign Governments can be broken down into the following three categories:

Space sublet by the FCO to foreign Governments:

Baghdad (Canadian Embassy, Danish Embassy, Delegation of the European Union to Iraq)
Chisinau (Dutch Honorary Consul)
Freetown (French Consulate)
Goma (French Diplomatic Representative)
Kabul (New Zealand Embassy)
Lashkar Gah (Delegation of the European Union to Afghanistan)

Space sublet by foreign governments to the FCO:

Antananarivo (German Embassy)
Monrovia (US Embassy)
Nouakchott (Delegation of the European Union to Mauritania)
Pyongyang (German Embassy).

Co-located office space governed by separate lease agreements, or jointly owned:

Bamako (Canadian Embassy)
Dar Es Salaam (Dutch Embassy, German Embassy, Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania)
Quito (German Embassy)
Reykjavik (German Embassy).

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [12994]

Alistair Burt: The space occupied per employee of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK for:

2008-09—24.7 square metres NIA (Net Internal Area)
2009-10—14.3 square metres NIA

The information requested is not available for previous years.

Since 2008 the FCO has been improving the quality of data relating to space utilisation on the estate. Better data allow for more accurate reporting, which along with more open planning of new offices has helped bring down the amount of space occupied per person.

The nature of the two Grade I and II listed buildings in London whose internal configuration cannot easily be changed makes it difficult to secure further improvements and achieve the Government property unit's space guidelines set for the UK estate.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [12481]

Alistair Burt: Consultants are used where they fulfil a business need and the skills required are not available internally. Annual expenditure on consultants at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been published each year in our annual departmental report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House and on our website. Actual consultancy expenditure in 2008-09 was £29.9 million rather then the estimated figure of £63.6 million quoted in the 2008-09 departmental report. Consultancy expenditure for 2009-2010 was £23 million.

FCO Services was established as an executive agency in 2006 and then as a trading fund in on 1 April 2008. Consultancy expenditure figures have been published separately from the FCO since 2006 and can be found in the FCO Services annual report in the notes to the accounts, available in the Library of the House and on the FCO Services website.

Wilton Park consultancy expenditure forms part of their published annual reports. Expenditure for the years they have used consultancy services was:

	£
2007-08	8,612
2008-09	9,969
2009-10	12,000

British Council consultancy costs, as disclosed in the audited annual accounts, are as follows:

	£
2005-06	28,000
2006-07	140,000
2007-08	148,000
2008-09	372,000
2009-10	1,066,000

The increased consultancy costs for the British Council in 2009-10 were incurred in support of the Doubling English growth programme relating to legal, local tax and other professional advice, as well as further specific international tax advice which the British Council procured in support of the establishment of the Shared Services Centre and other subsidiaries overseas.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13013]

Alistair Burt: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13300]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) would normally expect all its staff to pay any transport-related fines without recourse to public funds.

Budgets in the FCO are devolved to individual directorates within the UK and its network of over 250 posts overseas. As a result, this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible was in each region in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12482]

Alistair Burt: FCO Services operates a UK based fleet of vehicles on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Total expenditure in each of the last three financial years was as follows:

	£
2007/08	167,835
2008/09	33,543
2009/10	[1]461,320

[1] £244,000 funded by the Low-Carbon Technology Fund within the Department for Energy and Climate Change to support the FCO's 10:10 commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 10% in 2010

Expenditure in the current financial year (2010/11) is £38,865, and there are currently no plans for further expenditure during 2010/11.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10113]

Alistair Burt: The total spend for Ministers on Government hospitality was:

(a) May 2010—£356.49

(b) June 2010—£233.96

These figures are based on services used and paid for in the months of May and June.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many temporary staff are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* British embassies and consulates. [12139]

Alistair Burt: As of 1 July 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employed 215 staff directly on temporary contracts of 12 months or less in the UK. This figure does not include agency staff, specialist contractors, interim managers and consultants who do not have direct contracts of employment with the FCO, as we are currently compiling data on these categories of workers. I will update my right hon. Friend when this exercise is complete.

To compile detailed information on temporary staff at our 258 posts overseas would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13299]

Alistair Burt: In the last financial year (2009-10) Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff attended a range of external course—that is courses designed and provided outside the FCO. Some of these were paid for centrally, and others were sourced and paid for on an individual basis by FCO teams and posts in response to their specific business needs.

The Human Resources Directorate of the FCO centrally funded three main external programmes: the Open University Scheme which cost about £345,000 for about 115 staff; Advanced Apprenticeships which cost about

£1,365 for seven staff to attend; and a number of the National School of Government's courses to the cost of about £22,000 for 12 staff. This makes a total of £368,365.

It would incur a disproportionate cost to provide details of external training courses procured by directorates other than Human Resources as this information is not held centrally.

Hezbollah

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the *(a)* number and *(b)* range of Hezbollah's missiles. [12692]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by recent reports of weapons transfers to Hezbollah, including Hezbollah's own claims that it possesses significant military capabilities. We do not have specific figures but assess that since the end of the 2006 Lebanon conflict Hezbollah has replenished its holdings of short- and long-range rockets and missiles.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of Hezbollah members *(a)* in Lebanon and *(b)* who have been trained in Iran. [12693]

Alistair Burt: We do not have definite figures but Hezbollah has a significant number of members within Lebanon. Open sources indicate anywhere between 10,000 and 200,000 party members, however no distinctions are made between potential Hezbollah fighters, paid party members or Hezbollah party affiliates.

We do not have any numbers for Hezbollah members who have been trained in Iran.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on Hezbollah's military capability in southern Lebanon. [12961]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have regular discussions with our EU counterparts on the situation in the middle east and will raise Hezbollah if or when necessary.

Iran: Prisoners

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Iranian Government on the imprisonment of Reza Shahabi; [12737]

(2) if he will take steps to secure the release of Reza Shahabi from imprisonment in Iran. [12739]

Alistair Burt: I raised the case of Reza Shahabi of the Tehran Bus Workers Union with the Iranian ambassador on 18 August. I also raised the case of his colleague, Saeed Torabian. I expressed concern at their detention and asked the Iranian ambassador to provide further details of why the individuals had been detained and on what charges.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has responded to representation from Amnesty International on the imprisonment of Reza Shahabi. [12738]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of the representations from Amnesty International about the case of Reza Shahabi. I raised the case of Reza Shahabi of the Tehran Bus Workers Union with the Iranian ambassador on 18 August. I also raised the case of his colleague, Saeed Torabian. I expressed concern at their detention and asked the Iranian ambassador to provide further details of why the individuals had been detained and on what charges.

Iran: Uranium

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* US, *(c)* Egyptian, *(d)* EU and *(e)* Jordanian counterpart on Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium. [12968]

Alistair Burt: The UK maintains a regular dialogue with our key allies and regional partners on this issue.

The latest report from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran was discussed at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in June 2010. The report indicated that Iran has produced 2,427 kg of low enriched uranium (LEU), enriched to less than 5%. The report also states that Iran has produced 5.7 kg of LEU enriched to just under 20%. This is a significant step towards the ability to enrich to weapons grade levels.

The UK continues to implement the dual-track approach to the Iranian nuclear programme, the objective of which is to achieve a diplomatic solution to the nuclear issue. The UK has been in regular discussions with the EU over the implementation of sanctions against Iran that go above and beyond those sanctions agreed in UN Security Council Resolution 1929.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects of changes to access arrangements for workers and goods entering or leaving Gaza since the announcements of Prime Minister Netanyahu on 20 June and 5 July 2010. [11998]

Alistair Burt: According to the UN, a total of 1,048 truckloads of goods entered Gaza in the week beginning 15 August 2010, compared to 573 trucks for the week beginning 6 June 2010.

Despite the increase of imports into the Gaza Strip in recent weeks, ongoing restrictions on the entry of construction materials, as well as on exports, continue to hamper major reconstruction and development projects.

The UK, together with the EU and Quartet, will continue to press Israel to increase the capacity of the crossings for imports and exports and to allow the movement of people which are all vital to alleviate the dire situation in Gaza.

Libya

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have had with their Libyan counterparts in the last 12 months; and what matters were discussed at those meetings. [12304]

Alistair Burt: Since becoming Minister for Middle East and North Africa, I have met the Libyan Europe Minister, Abdulati al-Obidi and the Libyan Minister for Public Security, General Abd al-Fatah Younis al-Obidi. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to the Libyan Foreign Minister, Musa Kusa by telephone. We both discussed UK-Libya relations, including issues relating to our difficult past, such as the importance of restarting the stalled investigation into the unlawful killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in Tripoli and in London have regular contact with their Libyan counterparts to discuss issues of mutual interest, such as co-operation on migration and counter-terrorism.

UN Security Council

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of his Department is on the addition of *(a)* India, *(b)* Brazil, *(c)* Germany and *(d)* Japan as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. [13244]

Mr Bellingham: The Government support permanent seats on a reformed UN Security Council for Japan, India, Germany and Brazil as well as African representation. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his speech at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 1 July 2010 'this Government will be at the forefront of those arguing for the expansion of the UN Security Council'. The Government consider that the Security Council needs to be reformed to ensure it is more representative of the modern world whilst no less effective in taking necessary decisions.

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many care orders have been issued in England in each of the last five years. [12743]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the number of children made subject to a care order, in all tiers of court of England, in each year from 2004 to 2008, the last year for which figures have been published.

The number of children made subject to a care order in all tiers of court, England, 2004 to 2008

	Number
2004	7,180
2005	6,490
2006	6,650
2007	7,020
2008	6,530

Statistics on public law disposals for England and Wales are published on an annual basis by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical report 'Judicial and Court Statistics'. Statistics for 2009 are due to be published in the next edition on 23 September 2010, and will be available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Cemeteries

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress the Government have made in the implementation of those recommendations of the Eighth Report of the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee, Session 2001-02, HC 91, on cemeteries which it accepted. [12046]

Mr Djanogly: We are currently considering what further steps might be taken in response to the Committee's recommendations. In particular, we are reviewing the case for re-using old cemeteries and updating the existing legislation. I will write to the hon. Member with details of the action that has been taken to date.

Closed Circuit Television: Prisons

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to prisons on the *(a)* use and *(b)* regulations governing the use of closed circuit television cameras in visiting areas. [12417]

Mr Blunt: Prisons may use CCTV systems overtly to monitor activity in visiting and other areas for reasons of security. Their use is governed by a number of National Offender Management Service policy documents including those that provide advice and guidance to staff on the Data Protection Act, prisoner communications, information management, searching, and visits.

Prisons may also use CCTV for covert surveillance subject to meeting the requirements for directed surveillance set out in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act.

Courts

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which magistrates courts in England had a utilisation rate of above 80 per cent. in 2009-10; and what the average time taken to complete a case was at those courts in that period; [12917]

(2) what the average time taken to complete a case was in England in 2009-10. [12918]

Mr Djanogly: In 2009-10 there were 44 magistrates courts in England with a utilisation rate of above 80%. Courtroom utilisation is the time a courtroom is used, against the hours that a courtroom is available for use. These courts are listed with the utilisation rate in the following table.

The table also shows the estimated average times from the date an offence was committed to the date a case was completed in a magistrates court, for criminal cases in these magistrates courts during 2009-10. These figures are sourced from the quarterly Time Interval Survey.

The estimated average time taken from the date an offence was committed to the date of completion for criminal cases across all magistrates courts in England in 2009-10 was 141 days.

Table 1: Magistrates courts utilisation rate and estimated average time from offence to completion for all defendants in all criminal cases in England, for courts with a utilisation rate over 80% in 2009-10

Magistrates courts	*Utilisation rate (%)*	*Estimated average number of days from offence to completion*
Aylesbury	87	156
Banbury	85	178
Basingstoke	81	107
Blackpool	92	122
Bristol	84	98
Camberwell Green	84	85
City of London	92	159
City of Westminster	115	167
Crawley	87	135
Ealing	82	109
Gateshead	86	104
Greenwich	85	141
Harrow	97	173
Hatfield	118	[1] —
Hendon	89	155
Leicester	84	137
Luton	83	143
Maidstone	93	241
Newcastle Upon Tyne	90	137
Newton Aycliffe	81	98
North Tyneside	81	106
Northallerton	94	138
Northwich	80	179
Nuneaton	91	123
Preston	86	118
Reading	83	154
Redhill	80	133
Richmond Upon Thames	80	166
Scunthorpe	91	110
Sevenoaks	83	177
Sittingbourne	82	183
Slough	102	116
South East Northumberland	90	126
South Western	82	214
Stratford Upon Avon	90	128
Thames	101	109
Thanet (Margate)	94	75
Torquay	81	147
Uxbridge	94	136
Walsall	81	102
West London	93	118
Wimbledon	84	146
All magistrates courts in England with a utilisation rate above 80%		141

[1] Figures not shown due to low sample sizes.

Notes:

1. Statistics on the estimated average time from offence to completion are counted by defendant, rather than by case. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is counted separately.
2. The working assumption is that a courtroom is available 25 hours per week (five hours per weekday). These data come from an internal management system. The data are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.
3. Utilisation rates of over 100% are possible when the actual number of hours used are higher than the standard availability for the period.

Source:

Courtroom Utilisation (Magistrates) and the magistrates courts Time Intervals Survey, HM Courts Service Performance Database ('OPT').

Courts: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on how many and what proportion of occasions the maximum sentence for an offence was given in *(a)* crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in the latest year for which figures are available; [12390]

(2) what the average length was of a sentence handed down for each offence by each court in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [12395]

Mr Blunt: The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody, the maximum permissible sentence (estimated) and the immediate custodial sentence length is provided for both magistrates courts and the crown court is shown in the following tables.

Few offenders receive a maximum sentence for an indictable offence at magistrates courts as the statutory maximum for most offences lies outside the jurisdiction of a magistrate.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010

Persons sentenced to immediate custody by court, average custodial sentence length and number of maximum permissible sentences used[1, 2, 3]

Offence group	*Total immediate custody*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)[4]*	*Number of maximum sentences given[5]*	*Percentage of sentences where maximum sentence is given*	*Total immediate custody*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)[4]*	*Number of maximum sentences given*	*Percentage of sentences where maximum sentence is given*
Violence Against Person	3,745	4.0	—	—	9,635	23.0	496	5.1
Sexual Offences	169	4.0	—	—	2,835	46.7	39	1.4

Persons sentenced to immediate custody by court, average custodial sentence length and number of maximum permissible sentences used[1, 2, 3]

Offence group	*Total immediate custody*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*[4]	*Number of maximum sentences given*[5]	*Percentage of sentences where maximum sentence is given*	*Total immediate custody*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*[4]	*Number of maximum sentences given*	*Percentage of sentences where maximum sentence is given*
Burglary	3,304	4.2	—	—	6,656	24.1	0	0.0
Robbery	481	8.4	—	—	4,614	35.3	2	0.0
Theft and Handling	16,947	2.1	—	—	4,061	11.7	3	0.1
Fraud and Forgery	926	2.8	—	—	4,740	12.3	4	0.1
Criminal Damage	473	2.3	—	—	684	24.7	3	0.4
Drug Offences	1,293	2.5	—	—	8,195	37.5	32	0.4
Indictable Motoring	269	4.9	1	0.4	1,133	10.5	6	0.5
Other Indictable (Not Motoring)	3,656	1.9	4	0.1	5,242	17.4	31	0.6
Total	31,263	2.7	5	0.0	47,795	25.1	616	1.3
Summary Non-Motoring	12,964	2.6	975	7.5	1,125	3.3	211	18.8
Summary Motoring	6,121	3.2	469	7.7	257	3.3	33	12.8
All offences	50,348	2.7	1,449	2.9	49,177	24.5	860	1.7

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[4] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[5] Few people receive a maximum sentence for an indictable offence at a magistrates court as the statutory maximum for most offences lies outside the jurisdiction of a magistrate

Note:

0.0% - Means less than 0.05%

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13289]

Mr Djanogly: The percentages of payments made within 10 days to all suppliers for the months of July and August 2010 are:

	Percentage
July 2010	93
August 2010	93

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what external *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost to the public purse is of each piece of work commissioned. [12905]

Mr Blunt: The following tables show details of live contracts for consultancy services and the provision of specialist contractors and interim managers via agencies.

In addition the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) contracts for the provision of temporary clerical, administrative and ancillary staff with the following agencies. The monetary value specified against each agency relates to the aggregate value of spend for quarter 1 of the 2010-11 financial year.

Temporary clerical and administrative

	£
Brook Street UK Ltd.	2,406,792
Office Angels Ltd.	509,644
Employment Plus Ltd.	70,891
Hays Specialist Recruitment	822,307

Temporary ancillary (non clerical and administrative)

	£
Hays Construction	1,924,418

Requirement description	*Total cost of contract (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
NOMS Operational Framework Scenario Analysis (Consultancy)	250,000	19 July 2010	29 October 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
E-working project for Royal Courts of Justice (Consultancy)	270,000	1 July 2010	30 March 2011	AMTEC
Financial Accounts team leader	36,000	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Adam Price
System Integrator Services/ R&R Programme and MoJ Shared Services	6,187,000	6 April 2010	30 November 2011	Parity
Front line eRecruitment and redeployment system team/ MoJ Shared Services Business Analyst and System Config Manager	126,350	TBC	TBC	Parity
Solutions Architect/Shared Services Programme	111,000	1 July 2010	28 February 2011	ASE Consulting
MoJ ICT Transformation Programme—non payroll staff	14,000,000	1 July 2010	31 March 2010	TBC
Communications Manager	36,750	22 February 10	21 August 2010	COI GovGap
Access to Justice Change Programme Finance Manager	71,000	6 April 2010	23 August 2010	Hudson Global Resources Ltd.
ICT Procurement Telecoms Category Manager	75,400	1 June 2010	26 August 2010	Parity Resources Ltd.
Accountant	34,754	26 April 2010	26 August 2010	Reed Personnel Services
Communications Manager	37,638	29 March 2010	28 August 2010	COI GovGap
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	69,560	30 November 2009	29 August 2010	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	77,480	30 November 2009	31 August 2010	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
To provide communications support to the New Prisons site search project	78,225	4 January 2010	31 August 2010	COI GovGap
Costings Manager	86,420	7 June 2010	31 August 2010	Hays Specialist Recruitment
HR Change Project Manager	93,125	24 February 2010	31 August 2010	Walker Cox
Procurement and Contract Management	74,500	1 May 2009	31 August 2010	Matchtech
Study into methodology of short term outcome study of SDP	75,000	1 February 2010	1 September 2010	Jo Day
Study into methodology of short term outcome study of SDP	75,000	1 February 2010	1 September 2010	Jo Day
C-NOMIS project	83,132	1 April 2010	3 September 2010	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Business Analyst	88,920	1 April 2010	3 September 2010	Parity Resources Ltd.
Comms Manager	64,908	15 February 2010	14 September 2010	COI GovGap
Communications	27,621	22 March 2010	17 September 2010	COI GovGap
Agency Staff	2,784	1 April 2010	26 September 2010	Michael Page
Communications Officer	33,462	29 March 2010	28 September 2010	COI GovGap
Core Programme—Project planner	90,395	2 November 2009	30 September 2010	NES IT
NOMIS Security Architect	103,641	17 October 2009	30 September 2010	Sands
Evaluation of Virtual Courts	94,834	1 September 2009	30 September 2010	WM Enterprise
To provide activity based costing for Crown Court	102,030	30 May 2010	30 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Financial Accounts Team Leader	106,326	2 July 2010	30 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Review the Delivery of Drug Rehabilitation Requirement	24,010	16 December 2009	30 September 2010	Arun Sondhi
Lawyer	44,285	1 April 2010	30 September 2010	Venn Group
Supporting PSBU with competitive dialogue	195,000	6 April 2010	30 September 2010	PA Consulting Group
MoJ Head of Group Accounts	62,650	1 January 2010	30 September 2010	Allen Lane
Communications Officer	39,138	1 April 2010	30 September 2010	COI GovGap
Regional Finance Manager	45,365	7 June 2010	7 October 2010	Badenoch and Clark
Lead reward specialist	126,259	6 April 2010	8 October 2010	Capita Resourcing Ltd.

Requirement description	*Total cost of contract (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
Content Manager to MoJ through COI	27,621	21 April 10	15 October 2010	COI GovGap
Non Executive Director	79,200	20 October 2009	19 October 2010	Partners of Prisoners
Business Change Manager	148,500	19 October 2009	19 October 2010	QI Consulting
SS Business Change Lead	153,340	24 May 2010	26 October 2010	Dbi Consulting
Strategic Alliance Reprocurement Manager	162,327	26 May 2010	26 October 2010	Hays
Implementation Manager for TCE Act programme	118,013	1 February 2010	29 October 2010	Smartsourcing
Core Programme Change and Configuration Manager	60,399	1 February 2010	29 October 2010	Hays
IT Service Manager	98,753	1 October 2009	31 October 2010	NES IT
Interim Change Manager	93,005	1 April 2010	31 October 2010	Hays Specialist Recruitment
Procurement and Contract Management	165,495	28 May 2010	31 October 2010	Hays
Senior Scientific Officer	138,450	1 May 2010	4 November 2010	QI Consulting
Business Case Manager	145,800	17 June 2010	16 November 2010	Russam GMS
Business Change Manager (Vetting)	137,940	6 April 2010	19 November 2010	NES IT
Design and Development Manager	162,401	15 August 2009	30 November 2010	Amtec Consulting plc
Senior Scientific Officer	113,525	1 March 2010	30 November 2010	QI Consulting
Procurement unit Manager	166,225	1 March 2010	30 November 2010	Matchtech Group UK Ltd.
Accountant/Tester	61,643	19 April 2010	30 November 2010	Michael Page
Developer/Tester	52,140	19 April 2010	30 November 2010	Monarch Recruitment Ltd.
Procurement Project Manager	122,500	7 December 2009	6 December 2010	Russam GMS
RPU SE Procurement Manager	161,601	17 May 2010	10 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Resource Manager	294,930	11 December 2010	22 December 2010	Methods Consulting Ltd.
Findings and acceptance of interim findings report	112,893	20 January 2009	30 December 2010	National Centre for Social Research
Technical Architect	231,340	20 July 2009	31 December 2010	Parity Resources Ltd.
NOMIS Programme Support	295,868	1 April 2010	31 December 2010	Sand Resources Ltd
Change Manager	121,897	1 August 2009	31 December 2010	NES IT
Resource Manager	84,063	1 April 2010	31 December 2010	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Change Manager	81,417	1 January 2010	31 December 2010	NES IT
Non Executive Director	161,400	1 January 2010	31 December 2010	Janardan Sofat
Project Implementation Manager	139,500	11 January 2010	10 January 2011	Sand-UK
Business Analyst	173,420	1 June 2010	30 January 2011	Tribal Consortium
Senior Project Management Support	194,350	1 February 2010	31 January 2011	Badenoch & Clark Ltd.
Transforming Justice—Public engagement Programme	105,417	1 February 2010	1 February 2011	Andrew Darton
Transforming Justice—Public engagement Programme	206,250	1 February 2010	1 February 2011	Future Company
Transforming Justice—Public engagement Programme	115,326	1 February 2010	1 February 2011	Craig Ross Dawson
Shared Services Design and Implementation PM	226,797	14 June 2010	25 February 2011	Amtec Consortium
Belief in Change Programme	148,500	1 March 2010	1 March 2011	Antonio Pangallo
Technical support	118,470	26 April 2010	31 March 2011	Sand Resources Ltd.
Responsibility for delivery of the NOMIS programme	211,006	1 December 2009	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Document Manager	114,575	2 November 2009	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd
Environments Manager	282,791	22 October 2009	31 March 2011	Sand Resources Ltd.
NOMIS programme technical support	148,985	1 April 2010	31 March 2011	Sand Resources Ltd.
NOMIS Information Technology Business Analyst	148,917	1 August 2009	31 March 2011	Sand Resources Ltd.
Senior Quality Assurance	215,378	1 April 2010	31 March 2011	LA International
Provision of an evaluation officer	93,340	1 September 2009	31 March 2011	Darnley Consultancy Ltd.
Maintain NOMIS Test Strategy	258,415	1 August 2009	31 March 2011	NES IT

Requirement description	*Total cost of contract (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
Data Share Project Manager	224,138	29 August 2009	31 March 2011	NES IT
Overall responsibility for NOMIS Programme	335,665	5 September 2009	31 March 2011	Alpine Resourcing
Technical and Requirements Adviser	344,640	27 March 2010	31 March 2011	Technology Project Services
NOMIS Programme	225,632	2 November 2009	31 March 2011	Sand Resources Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	168,730	18 March 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	150,780	1 June 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Test Analyst	158,678	26 April 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Test Analyst	158,678	26 April 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Provision of Integrated Offender Management	125,650	1 June 2010	31 March 2011	London
Quality Assurance Manager	184,885	1 May 2010	31 March 2011	Methods Consulting Ltd
Freelance Events Consultant	59,932	1 April 2009	31 March 2011	COI GovGap
Business Change PM	276,430	1 April 2010	31 March 2011	Tri bal Consortium
Programme Support Manager	127,039	18 January 2009	30 April 2011	Russam GMS
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	135,720	1 April 2010	31 May 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	109,200	1 April 2010	31 May 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	150,400	1 April 2010	31 May 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	127,680	1 April 2010	31 May 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	122,670	5 June 2009	31 May 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Business Case Manager	387,332	1 December 2009	31 May 2011	Parity Resources Ltd.
Shared Services programme	158,760	4 March 2010	31 May 2011	Hays
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	147,278	1 April 2010	31 July 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	141,440	1 April 2010	31 July 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Test Analyst (change of role)	128,520	1 June 2010	31 July 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Test Analyst	118,860	29 August 2010	31 July 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Test Lead	122,670	30 August 2010	31 July 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	192,400	1 April 2010	31 August 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	191,290	1 April 2010	1 September 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Provision of a three year maintenance contract to the risk of harm guidance and training resource	40,467	23 March 2009	22 March 2012	De Montfort Expertise Ltd.
In house bidding capability	41,663	18 September 2009	17 September 2012	P A Consulting
Consultancy to HM Courts Service Disability Discrimination Estate	53,010	1 December 2009	30 November 2012	RNIB Access Consultancy Services
In-house delivery of internal audit services	110,585	4 January 2010	3 January 2013	Ernst & Young
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	204,450	1 April 2010	30 November 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	204,450	1 April 2010	30 November 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Various Test Resource to assist with the NOMIS Programme	115,362	1 April 2010	30 November 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Head of Service Operations	108,900	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Qi Consulting
Problem and Incident Support	46,662	1 July 2010	26 October 2010	LA International
Assurance Analyst	56,760	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity Resources Ltd
Infrastructure Architect	49,500	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Kaiko
Business Support	13,226	1 April 2010	30 September 2010	Kelly Services
Service Capacity and Availability Support	14,362	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Barnett Personnel
Information Assurance	158,760	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	NES IT
Test Manager	78,400	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Badenoch & Clark

Requirement description	*Total cost of contract (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
Continual Service Improvement Analyst	66,620	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	HAYS
Programme Manager	103,275	27 July 2010	31 January 2011	Badenoch & Clark
Project Manager	61,380	22 March 2010	21 September 2010	Amtec Consulting
Project Manager	100,800	7 July 2010	31 March 2011	Amtec Consulting
Project Manager	46,666	1 July 2010	26 October 2010	LA International
Project Team Member	19,976	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Brook Street
Project Team Member	38,414	4 June 2009	31 July 2010	Brook Street
Quality Assurance/PPM Standards and Tooling	45,184	6 April 2010	30 September 2010	Amtec Consulting
Change Control	51,328	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Hays IT
Analyst/Programmer	47,394	1 August 2010	31 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Analyst/Programmer	65,920	1 July 2010	31 January 2011	NES IT
Analyst/Programmer	53,719	19 July 2010	31 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Analyst/Programmer	23,706	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Head of Customer Service Relationship	91,740	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Advantage (TPS)
Business Support Officer/PA	17,765	1 May 2010	30 September 2010	Adept recruitment
Assurance Analyst	29,315	1 July 2010	26 August 2010	Methods Consulting Ltd.
Enterprise Architect	56,100	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity Resources Ltd.
Lead Accreditor	75,900	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Capgemini
Business Support	17,470	1 April 2010	30 September 2010	Kelly Services
Business Plan and Delivery Assurance	78,480	1 November 2010	31 March 2011	Badenoch & Clark
Solution Architect	59,400	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity Resources
Application Architect	43,400	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Service Continuity Analyst	41,104	10 May 2010	6 October 2010	Advantage (TPS)
Infrastructure Services Analyst	105,600	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Methods Consulting
Acceptance into Service Analyst	38,153	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Programme Manager	121,970	29 March 2010	28 October 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Senior Project Manager	95,345	1 April 2010	26 September 2010	Venn Group
Project Manager	104,076	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	AMTEC Consulting
Project Manager	61,600	29 March 2010	28 October 2010	AMTEC Consulting
Junior Analyst/Programmer	36,630	1 August 2010	31 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Solution Development Support	13,129	1 June 2010	1 October 2010	Reed Employment
Lead Account Manager MoJ HQ	46,900	24 May 2010	24 August 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Head of Service Delivery		1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Veredus
Problem and Incident Analyst	22,572	2 August 2010	30 September 2010	Reed Specialist Recruitment
Problem and Incident Support	25,080	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	NES IT
Head of Financial Services Unit	195,020	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Tribal Consortium
Request for Service Support	9,330	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Adept
Request for Service Support	7,799	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Employment Plus
Problem, Incident and Security Manager	65,802	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	NES IT
Infrastructure Architect	37,885	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Monarch Recruitment
Information Architect	70,552	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Monarch Recruitment
Information Security Manager	150,920	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	SELEX Communications Ltd.
Head of Security Architecture and Project Delivery	205,800	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Actica Consulting
IA Governance Analyst	105,840	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	ASE Consulting
Infrastructure Architect	45,540	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity Resources Ltd.
Technical Manager	245,000	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Cap Gemini
Solution Architect	49,500	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Kaiko
Infrastructure Services Manager	135,238	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Rullion Computer Personnel
Infrastructure Services Analyst	34,497	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	HAYS IT
Application Services Analyst	40,578	12 April 2010	30 September 2010	Monarch
Acceptance into Service Manager	37,950	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	NES IT

Requirement description	*Total cost of contract (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
Service Level Analyst	27,961	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Sand Resources
Service Level Analyst	56,547	15 March 2010	30 September 2010	Monarch Recruitment
Service Level and Improvement Manager	66,550	1 August 2010	31 December 2010	NES IT
Lead Account Manager—CJG	195,750	21 April 2010	20 April 2011	Badenoch & Clark
Lead Account Manager MoJ HQ	47,972	24 May 2010	24 August 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Head of Vendor Management and Service Transition	155,760	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Veredus
Request for Service Support	9,330	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Adept
Release Analyst	38,614	26 April 10	6 October 2010	Monarch Recruitment
Assurance Analyst	29,315	1 July 2010	26 August 2010	Methods Consulting Ltd.
Configuration Analyst	33,825	1 July 2010	26 August 2010	Methods Consulting
Infrastructure Architect	34,255	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Sand Resources Ltd.
Security Operation Support	5,882	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Kelly Services
Lead Accreditor	205,800	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	ACTICA Consulting
Finance and Operation Lead	58,500	3 July 2010	31 December 2010	Networkers MSB
Business Support	10,064	18 May 2010	17 August 2010	Brook Street
Personal Assistant	19,864	1 May 2010	30 September 2010	Northern Recruitment Group
Application Architect	37,950	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity Resources
Solution Architect	49,698	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity Resources
Service Capacity and Availability Analyst	34,320	1 April 2010	30 June 2010	Methods Consulting
Solution Architect	195,588	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Badenoch & Clark
Interim Head of ICT Networks	176,400	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	ASE Consulting
Information Assurance	102,960	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Selex Communications
Information Assurance	114,840	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Regency ITC
Information Assurance	49,500	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Portcullis Computer Security Ltd.
Technical Lead-ICT Procurement	277,965	1 April 2010	31 March 2011	Computer People
Senior Testing Manager	87,384	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Reed Technology
Acceptance into Service Manager	37,350	7 May 2010	31 August 2010	Certes Computing
Acceptance into Service Analyst	42,000	4 May 2010	6 October 2010	Certes Computing
Acceptance into Service Analyst	9,652	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Barnett Personnel
Head of Delivery Management (NOMS)	180,590	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Alpine Consortium
Configuration Support	32,070	24 May 2010	6 October 2010	Monarch Recruitment
ATIA Portfolio Management and Best Practice Lead	130,680	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	PCUBED
Infrastructure Architect	30,544	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Monarch Contract Recruitment
Service Capacity and Availability Analyst	19,475	1 July 2010	26 August 2010	Methods Consulting
Technical Manager	64,609	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Sand Resources Ltd.
Solution Architect	49,829	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Sand Resources Ltd.
Infrastructure Architect	80,040	2 August 2010	31 March 2011	Certes Computing
Information Assurance-delivery and advisory SME	136,620	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Alpine Resourcing Ltd.
Test Manager	45,796	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Senior Project Manager	54,450	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Senior Project Manager	38,746	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Monarch Recruitment
Senior Project Manager	100,572	2 August 2010	31 March 2011	Hays IT
Senior Project Manager	23,100	1 July 2010	31 July 2010	Alpine Consortium
Senior Project Manager	95,454	29 March 2010	28 October 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Senior Project Manager	32,406	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Monarch Recruitment
Senior Project Manager	177,500	1 March 2010	31 March 2011	Amtec Consulting
Senior Project Manager	48,389	17 May 2010	16 September 2010	Advantage
Senior Project Manager	165,829	17 May 2010	16 July 2011	Advantage Technical Resourcing

Requirement description	*Total cost of contract (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
Senior Project Manager	141,941	17 May 2010	31 March 2011	Badenoch & Clark
Project Manager	142,302	1 April 2010	31 March 2011	Badenoch & Clark
Project Manager	26,219	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Project Manager	32,406	1 July 2010	26 September 2010	Monarch Recruitment
Test Analyst MCOBS	20,951	1 July 2010	26 August 2010	NetworkersMSB
Test Manager Omni T	76,908	1 August 2010	31 March 2011	Capita
Web Developer	27,060	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Redeployment Manager	55,770	1 August 2010	31 December 2010	Networkers MSB
Resource Co-ordinator	7,488	1 July 2010	13 August 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Test Manager Omni T	81,780	1 August 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing
e-working project	43,560	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Web developer	27,060	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Application Service Analyst	22,000	1 August 2010	30 September 2010	Parity Resources
Application Service Analyst	30,709	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Rullion Computer Personnel
RFS Support	6,468	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Kelly Services
Senior Recruitment Advisor	68,000	3 May 2010	24 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Project Manager	23,100	1 August 2010	30 September 2010	Amtec
Resource Administrator	11,889	19 April 2010	18 September 2010	Employment Plus
Test Analyst MCOBS	43,260	1 July 2010	26 October 2010	LA International
DIR Project Specialist	119,513	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Hudson
Personal Assistant	77,068	1 July 2009	31 March 2011	Adept Recruitment
Continual Service Improvement	9,737	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Reed Employment
Recruitment Team Lead	31,600	13 May 2010	31 August 2010	Elan
Test Analyst OMNI T	87,200	1 June 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing
Personal Assistant	10,798	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Adept Recruitment
RFS Support	7,862	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Adept Recruitment
Senior Project Manager	104,545	24 May 2010	23 November 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Programme Manager	41,800	1 July 2010	31 August 2010	ASE
Recruitment Advisor	15,600	14 May 2010	31 August 2010	Elan
Test Analyst MCOBS	65,943	1 July 2010	31 January 2011	Acumen Consortium
Test Analyst MCOBS	28,710	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Test Analyst Omni T	78,400	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Customer Service Support	15,479	1 April 2010	30 September 2010	Employment Plus
RFS Support	34,974	1 October 2009	30 September 2010	TBC (Hudson/Northern Recruitment Group)
Project Finance	125,775	1 July 2010	30 March 2011	Michael Page International
Comms Manager	66,805	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Hudson Global resources
Project Planner	46,487	18 July 2010	31 October 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Test Analyst MCOBS	31,020	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Test Analyst Omni T	83,980	9 November 2009	31 July 2010	Capita Resourcing
Test Manager Quip	145,506	5 January 2010	31 December 2010	Capita
DIR Project Specialist	79,870	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Advantage
Technical Analyst	26,035	1 July 2010	26 August 2010	Methods Consulting
Test Analyst MCOBS	36,300	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Test Analyst MCOBS	32,010	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Test Analyst Omni T	103,550	1 June 2010	31 March 2011	Capita Resourcing
Service Transition Manager	197,960	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Methods Consulting
Business Support Officer	12,297	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Kelly Services
Service Level Analyst	11,225	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Reed Employment
RFS Support	6,727	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Employment Plus
Service Architect	63,512	24 May 2010	30 November 2010	Monarch Recruitment
Recruitment Co-ordinator	31,680	15 March 2010	29 October 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Project Manager	62,603	11 June 2010	31 October 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Resource Co-ordinator	35,000	19 April 2010	31 October 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Project Manager	41,581	7 June 2010	31 October 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Test Manager Omni T	61,236	1 June 2010	30 October 2010	Capita Resourcing
e-working project	43,560	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Parity
Web Developer	27,060	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Customer Service Support	11,035	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Morgan Hunt
Personal Assistant	11,321	29 May 2010	30 September 2010	Brook Street

Requirement description	*Total cost of contract (£)*	*Contract start*	*Contract end*	*Supplier name*
Project Co-ordinator	33,930	1 July 2010	30 October 2010	Parity
Project Finance	127,400	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Platinum resources
Recruitment Advisor	57,460	3 May 2010	24 December 2010	Elan
Project Communications	43,500	1 July 2010	30 October 2010	Michael Page International
Project Communications	37,065	1 July 2010	30 October 2010	Hudson Global resources
Senior Project Manager	152,844	1 April 2010	31 December 2010	Hudson Global Resources
Resource Co-ordinator	14,916	24 May 2010	23 August 2010	NetworkersMSB
NOMIS Service Manager	30,888	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Rethink Recruitment Solutions
Service Level Manager	32,472	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Amtec
Head of Finance	131,340	1 July 2010	31 December 2010	Tribal Consortium
Technical Support	33,000	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Change and Release	28,248	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Advantage Technical Consulting
Security Operation Analyst	54,131	2 August 2010	2 February 2011	Advantage Technical Consulting
Athena Support Manager	64,733	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Manpower
DIR Project Specialist	92,781	20 July 2010	31 March 2011	Monarch
Technical Support	33,000	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Project Co-ordinator	54,715	28 March 2010	29 October 2010	—
Project Co-ordinator	15,851	1 April 2010	30 September 2010	Adept
Technical Support	33,000	1 July 2010	30 September 2010	Badenoch & Clark
Programme Manager	186,200	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	ASE
Senior Project Manager	118,125	12 July 2010	31 March 2011	Amtec
Athena Project Manager	100,940	1 July 2010	31 March 2011	Parity Resources

Departmental Contracts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts his Department and its agencies have with each private sector company; on what date each such contract commenced; what the duration is of each such contract; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each such contract; and if he will make a statement. [12908]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not maintain central records of contracts held by the Department and its agencies with private sector companies. To obtain the information requested would require the manual collection of all records and associated data from each individual agency at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each year. [13291]

Mr Djanogly: It is not the Ministry of Justice's policy to settle any transport-related fines on the behalf of its staff.

There is no evidence held centrally to indicate since 2005 that the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, has settled any transport-related fines on behalf of its staff. To provide absolute confirmation of this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13290]

Mr Djanogly: Responsibility for employee learning and development training is devolved to business groups within the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

Most training occurs within the normal working environment in the form of on the job learning and development where employees receive detailed procedural and operational training, coaching, and day-to-day advice. Prison and probation officers, however, have to undergo extensive formal training to undertake their duties in accordance with professional standards.

The figures provided include both internal and external training courses. The MoJ's accounting systems do not separately quantify expenditure on internal and external training courses. Costs are subsumed within numerous categories of expenditure, for example training, training courses, training courses/event. It would incur disproportionate costs to scrutinise all the individual transactions which might potentially include external training costs across the Ministry and its executive agencies. Additionally, it would also incur disproportionate costs to identify the number of staff that attended these external training courses.

The following table shows expenditure on both internal and external training courses for the financial year ending 31 March 2010.

2009-10

Department	*£000*
Ministry of Justice HQ	3,194
NOMS (excluding probation trusts)[1]	19,170
HMCS[2]	120
Tribunals Service	707
OPG	54
Total	25,245

[1] The expenditure on employee training for NOMS covers all staff training courses (including first aid) and further education courses. This also includes the purchase of associated materials and equipment.

Note:

Figures for MOJ HQ, HMCS and Tribunals exclude Magistrates and Judicial training.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of involvement in dog fighting in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008, (iv) 2009 and (v) 2010. [12647]

Mr Blunt: Section 8 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (which came into force 6 April 2007) created specific offences for involvement in animal fighting but not specifically dog fighting. The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for this offence, England and Wales 2007 to 2008 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

Dog fighting offences prior to 6 April 2007 were prosecuted under the Protection of Animals Act 1911. As this Act does not separately identify animal fighting or dog fighting within the statute, the Ministry of Justice are unable to provide any figures for this period.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010. Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the autumn, 2011.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for animal fighting offences[1], England and Wales, 2007 and 2008[2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2007	[illegible]	—
2008	[illegible]	5

[1] Animal Welfare Act 2006, section 8. Came into force on 6 April 2007. (Note: animals other than dogs may be included).

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Expert Evidence: Social Work

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the average payment per hour made to independent social workers as expert witnesses in family proceedings in *(a)* magistrates courts, *(b)* county courts and *(c)* the High Court in each year since 2002; [13192]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average amount of payments to *(a)* child psychologists, *(b)* child psychiatrists, *(c)* adult psychologists, *(d)* adult psychiatrists, *(e)* play therapists, *(f)* radiologists and *(g)* paediatricians as expert witnesses to family courts in each year from 2002; and if he will make a statement; [13193]

(3) if he will reverse the decision to exclude independent social workers from the remit of the Expert Witnesses Review Group; and if he will make a statement. [13194]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not routinely collect or separately record the amounts paid to expert witnesses in legally aided cases because they do not contract with them directly. However, my Department recently asked the LSC to conduct a limited file review exercise of payments made to expert witnesses in legal aid cases to inform our Analysis of expert witness fees paid in legal aid work research project.

Independent social work (ISW) groups have been invited to see and to comment on any emerging findings from the expert witness fees project as part of a wider reference group.

As has always been made clear, however, the file review exercise did not collect information on payments to ISWs as these were consulted on as part of the joint Ministry of Justice LSC consultation 'Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010' which ran from 18 December 2008 to 3 April 2009. As a result of the consultation, new payment rates for ISWs will be implemented with the new civil contracts in October 2010.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consult independent social workers who have provided expert witness reports to courts since 2002 to assess the financial effect on them of the proposed reduction of fees from 14 October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [13195]

Mr Djanogly: Changes to the rates paid for independent social work in civil legal aid cases will come into effect with the new civil legal aid contracts from 14 October 2010. From this date, the fees paid by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) for independent social work will be set at the same level as those currently paid by the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS) and CAFCASS Cymru. The new rates will apply to both public and private law children cases.

The changes were consulted on and agreed as part of the joint MOJ and Legal Services Commission (LSC) consultation. Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010 which took place between December 2008 and April 2009. It was not possible to assess the financial impact on individual independent social workers (ISW) as the LSC does not contract with them directly. However, full consideration was given to all written responses received from ISWs and the LSC met with several ISW groups during consultation. The consultation response document and impact assessment was published on 21 October 2009 and is available on the LSC website at:

https://consult.legalservices.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/FamilyFees2008/listdocuments

First Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of defendants with no previous *(a)* convictions and *(b)* cautions was given a custodial sentence for a first offence in *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* Crown courts in the latest period for which figures are available. [12415]

Mr Blunt: Figures for the number and proportion of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences in 2008, the most recent data available, by court type and previous conviction or caution history, are presented in the following table.

The proportion of offenders who were sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences in 2008 without previous convictions or without previous cautions by court type: England and Wales

	Offenders who were sentenced for indictable offences in 2008								
	Without previous convictions			*Without previous cautions*			*Without previous convictions/cautions*		
	Immediate custody	*All*	*%*	*Immediate custody*	*All*	*%*	*Immediate Custody*	*All*	*%*
Magistrates courts	2,025	20,810	10	13,394	39,896	34	1,186	17,916	7
The Crown courts	10,361	43,470	24	22,852	76,755	30	8,341	15,561	54
All courts[1]	12,389	64,379	19	36,261	117,348	31	9,529	33,889	28

[1] The All courts figures include cases where the court is not recorded

The figures shown are a further breakdown of the criminal history statistics presented in chapter 6 of 'Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales 2008' which was published on 28th January 2010 and can be found at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

'Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales 2009' with 2009 data will be published on 21 October 2010.

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Freedom of Information: Legislation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to extend the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [13237]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are considering a range of options to increase transparency, including extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to additional public authorities. The Government will announce their intentions in due course.

Freedom of Information: Network Rail

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plans to extend the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to Network Rail. [12196]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are considering a range of options for increasing transparency, including extending the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to additional public authorities.

The Government will announce their intentions in due course, including any in relation to Network Rail.

Independent Appeals Tribunal

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time was between submission of an attendance allowance appeal to the Independent Appeals Tribunal in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK and determination of the appeal in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [12042]

Mr Djanogly: The average time from submission to determination of attendance allowance appeals between July 2009 and June 2010 (the most recent period for which figures are available) was:

	Weeks
Glasgow	16.22
Scotland	15.05
UK	15.81

The Tribunals Service target is to deal with 75% of SSCS appeals within 16 weeks.

Juries: Crown Courts

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the average proportion of a juror's attendance time that is spent in court in Crown court cases. [12050]

Mr Djanogly: The information provided details the percentage of time jurors actually sat on trials in Crown court cases in the financial year 2008-09 and 2009-10 for each HMCS region in England and Wales.

HMCS juror utilisation figures in the Crown courts

		Percentage
HMCS region	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	74.0	76.6
Midlands	55.4	65.3
North East	59.5	60.8
North West	59.8	64.3
South East	60.5	64.3
South West	54.0	59.7
Wales	59.1	63.2
England and Wales	62.8	67.2

Justices' Clerks: Surrey

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many clerks to the justices who were qualified solicitors or barristers there were in Surrey between *(a)*

1979 and 1989, *(b)* 1990 and 1999 and *(c)* 2000 and 2009. [12914]

Mr Djanogly: The clerks to the justices for Surrey between 1979 and 2009 were:

> In the period 1979 to 1989 there were six justices' clerks, three of whom were solicitors and three were barristers.
>
> In the period 1990 to 1999 there were four justices' clerks, one of whom was a solicitor and three were barristers.
>
> In the period 2000 to 2009 there was one justices' clerk who was, and still is, a barrister.

The justices' clerk is the principal legal adviser to the magistrates and the provider of consistent legal advice throughout their clerkship. Decisions on the numbers of justices clerk before 2005 were taken by magistrates courts committees in consultation with magistrates. The position of justices clerks was reviewed in 2007 when the number of clerkships was reduced from 70 to 49.

Legal Aid: Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the level of funding for legal aid for cases relating to mental health legislation compared to that for other legal sectors. [12597]

Mr Djanogly: The vast majority of spend in the mental health category of law is applied to clients seeking to challenge the terms of their detention under the Mental Health Act 2007 by applying to a mental health tribunal. Given the importance of this work it is provided without reference to a client's financial circumstances.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) continues to ensure that demand for mental health legal services is met. Following the recent tender for new contracts from October 2010, they will be allocating approximately 1,500 more new matter starts in mental health in the 2010-11 contract year than were allocated in 2009-10. The mental health contract tenders were carried out on a non-competitive basis, and the number of applicants who have been provisionally offered a contract closely matches the number of existing providers. The LSC is confident that the overall provision of mental health services will remain good.

Legal Services Commission: Training

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* training his Department has provided and *(b)* guidance his Department has issued to the Legal Services Commission in respect of procurement law and the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. [13069]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice were engaged in the development and agreement of the policy that was implemented through the tender process. However, as the Legal Services Commission has managed the tender process, trained and qualified procurement and legal staff from the Commission have participated in the entire tender process and no further input from the Ministry was sought or offered in respect of procurement law and the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

Magistrates Courts: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of those sentenced in magistrates courts in the latest year for which figures are available were given a period of *(a)* immediate and *(b)* suspended custody; [12389]

(2) how many people have been given community sentences in each of the last three years. [12419]

Mr Blunt: The number of offenders and proportion of total offenders sentenced to immediate custody or suspended sentence at magistrates courts in England and Wales for 2008 are shown in table 1.

The number of offenders sentenced to a community sentence at magistrates courts in England and Wales 2006 to 2008 are shown in table 2.

This information is taken from chapter 1 (table 1.5) and chapter 3 (table 3.3) of Sentencing Statistics 2008, available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Court proceedings data for 2009 are due to be published on 21 October 2010.

Table 1: Number and percentage of immediate and suspended custodial sentences given in magistrates courts, 2008

	Number	*Proportion of the total sentenced (percentage)*
Total sentenced	1,265,287	100
Immediate custody	50,348	4.0
Suspended custody	23,705	1.9
Other sentences		
Fine	880,353	69.6
Community sentence	174,832	13.8
Otherwise dealt with	85,075	6.7
Conditional discharge	41,363	3.3
Absolute discharge	9,611	0.8

Table 2: Number of community sentences handed down at all courts, by year, 2006-08

	Number
2006	190,837
2007	196,424
2008	190,171

Notes:

1. The category 'other' includes: one day in police cells, disqualification order, restraining order, confiscation order, travel restriction order, disqualification from driving, and recommendation for deportation and other miscellaneous disposals.

2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

3. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

4. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Magistrates Courts: Woking

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what expenditure his Department has incurred on Woking magistrates court in each of the last five years; [12769]

(2) what expenditure his Department has incurred on upgrading facilities at Woking magistrates court in each of the last 20 years. [12886]

Mr Djanogly: The total resource costs for Woking magistrates court for the last five financial years are shown in the table A. These resource costs exclude income but include non-cash costs, staffing costs and judicial costs and align with the data held on the MOJ accounting system.

The capital costs relating to improvement works for Woking magistrates court for the last five financial years are shown in table B.

Up until 1 April 2005 magistrates courts were the responsibility of locally managed magistrates courts committees who were statutorily independent. Whilst information from the last five financial years is readily available, it is not possible to collate information for the years prior to this without incurring disproportionate costs.

Table A: Woking magistrates court resource costs

£000

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Staff costs (wages and salaries)[1]	642.8	656.0	619.2	618.2	271.1
Agency staff	0.9	15.0	3.8	16.9	6.9
Property rent and rates	82.9	99.5	105.7	110.0	115.4
Maintenance and improvement	22.1	31.3	44.2	21.4	22.5
Other property costs (inc. security, cleaning, waste and refuse)	30.2	25.9	108.4	112.2	117.8
Other expenditure	9.8	5.8	4.0	10.0	9.1
Printing, postage and office expenditure	20.0	17.5	18.1	17.1	18.3
Staff travel and other	4.3	7.5	4.7	6.9	1.9
Depreciation and amortisation[2]	21.3	25.7	134.3	119.5	115.5
Diminution of fixed and intangible assets[2]	0.5	2.1	319.7	608.0	634.8
Fuel and utilities	19.7	44.1	65.9	55.5	44.4
Contracted out services	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
IT and telecommunications	5.8	5.9	8.9	8.1	7.4
Judicial costs	41.2	63.2	83.8	60.7	57.4
Total resource costs	901.5	999.8	1,520.9	1,764.4	1,422.5

[1] From 2009-10 Woking magistrates court legal staff were accounted for at an area level, thus decreasing the staff costs attributed to Woking magistrates court.

[2] In 2007-08 Woking magistrates courthouse was transferred on to the HMCS asset register as part of the property transfer, thus increasing depreciation and amortisation, and diminution costs of Woking magistrates court in the ensuing years.

Table B: Woking magistrates court capital costs

	£000
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	0
2009-10	95.3

Magistrates: Surrey

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual number of magistrates in Surrey was in the period *(a)* 1980 to 1989, *(b)* 1990 to 1999 and *(c)* 2000 to 2009. [12884]

Mr Djanogly: Data for the periods 1980 to 1995 are no longer retained. On average, there were 422 magistrates per year in Surrey during the period 1996 to 1999.

Despite an extensive search, it was not possible to locate data for the year 2000 in the archives. On average, there were 367 magistrates per year in Surrey during the period 2001 to 2009.

Offensive Weapons: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for carrying an offensive weapon or bladed article in Leeds North West constituency in each of the last five years. [12244]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the West Yorkshire police force area for possession of offensive weapons or having an article with a blade or point in a public place, 2004 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the West Yorkshire police force area for offences of possession of offensive weapons and having an article with a blade or point[1], 2004-08[2,3]

	Number
2004	581
2005	557
2006	512
2007	507
2008	563

[1] Includes offences under the following statutes:
Prevention of Crime Act 1953—section 1
Criminal Justice Act 1988—section 139(2) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996—section 4(1).
Criminal Justice Act 1988—section 139.
Criminal Justice Act 1988—section 139A(1) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996—section 4(1)

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Parliamentary Questions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions his Department and its predecessor has not provided answers to parliamentary questions on the grounds of commercial confidentiality in each of the last five years. [12879]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested could be provided only by manually checking each parliamentary questions folder on the PQ database at a disproportionate cost. However, the database has been adapted so that this information will be centrally recorded in the future.

Police: Fines

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to give police the power to collect fines imposed by courts. [12396]

Mr Djanogly: Financial penalties are currently collected and enforced by HMCS. Assistance from the police may occasionally be required to execute warrants for fine default.

There are no plans to provide the police with powers to collect fines.

Prison Service: Contracts

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which private finance initiative prison contracts have been re-financed since 1997; and what savings his Department achieved from each contract. [12700]

Mr Blunt: Of the nine private finance initiative prison (PFI) contracts currently in place, our records show none have been re-financed and therefore no savings in relation to refinancing has occurred.

Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences on the latest date for which figures are available were born *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* outside the UK. [12368]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not record a prisoner's place of birth, only their nationality, which is self declared. As at June 2010, the most recent available data, there were 71,016 British nationals and 11,135 foreign nationals in prison (plus a further 2,851 had no nationality recorded).

The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, found under the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners' Release: Housing

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking *(a)* directly and *(b)* through partnership working to ensure that former offenders have access to secure housing on release. [12081]

Mr Blunt: A range of housing advice is provided in prisons and in the community to help offenders to find suitable and sustainable housing. Initial needs assessments are provided both in custody and for those offenders serving community sentences. In prison, housing advice is either provided by an 'in house' team or by a voluntary sector body under contract. In the community, offenders with housing needs are signposted to appropriate housing support services.

Most of the local resources for housing provision lie outside the criminal justice system and so the Ministry of Justice and NOMS play an important role in promoting strong local partnerships to tackle housing needs among offenders. The recent establishment of the cross-Government ministerial group on homelessness is expected to consider what further action is needed to support housing provision for offenders.

Prisoners: Drugs

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who were drug addicts in the latest period for which figures are available. [12763]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) estimates that on average 55% of those entering prison are drug dependent.

Drug treatment need in prisons is determined on a local basis. Central estimates of treatment need are reliant on epidemiological surveys. The figures above are derived primarily from an Office for National Statistics (ONS) report[1] which followed a large psychiatric survey of morbidity among prisoners[2] in 1997.

A more recent source of information regarding prevalence of substance misuse among sentenced prisoners is 'The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey', published by the Ministry of Justice in October 2008. This reviewed 1,457 newly sentenced prisoners from 49 prisons. It showed 62% of prisoners reporting some drug use and 41% of the sample reporting heroin, cocaine powder or crack cocaine (HCC) use during the four week period prior to custody.

In 2009-10, a total of 60,067 clinical interventions for drug dependency and 66,459 substance misuse triage assessments (undertaken by CARAT[3] services) were conducted in prisons[4].

[1] Singleton N., Farrell M. and Meltzer. H. (1998) 'Substance misuse among prisoners in England and Wales'. Office for National Statistics.

[2] Office for National Statistics (1997) 'Psychiatric morbidity among prisoners'.

[3] Counselling. Assessment. Referral. Advice and Throughcare.

[4] These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data. the level of detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Prisoners: First Aid

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of *(a)* obtaining health and safety certificates and *(b)* first aid training for prisoners to enable them to work in prison. [12413]

Mr Blunt: Neither the National Offender Management Services (NOMS) nor the Skills Funding Agency routinely collect the information requested.

Prisons: Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults by prisoners on *(a)* a prisoner and *(b)* a prison officer were recorded in each prison establishment in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [12904]

Mr Blunt: The following table details the number of assault incidents, by establishment, of prisoner on prisoner and prisoner on prison officer from 2002 until 2009, the last full year for which we have figures. The National Offender Management Service does not record the number of assaults, rather it records assault incidents in which one or more persons have been assaulted.

Prisons have a responsibility to keep prisoners, staff and visitors safe. The management of violence and its reduction, including support for staff, is central to successful prison management. It is fundamental to NOMS' objectives and vital to achieving the broad aims of safer custody.

Table 1: Recorded prisoner-on-prisoner assaults by prison: 2002-09

	Number of incidents							
Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Acklington	49	39	33	38	73	65	50	91
Albany	[1]—	[1]—	15	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	10
Altcourse	167	162	185	194	195	225	153	197
Ashfield	429	271	305	500	624	653	607	392
Ashwell	8	9	15	17	9	17	17	11
Askham Grange	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Aylesbury	44	26	21	78	80	79	89	138
Bedford	49	44	49	41	55	36	55	62
Belmarsh	60	76	66	53	51	25	27	40
Birmingham	90	105	139	102	118	109	96	95
Blantyre House	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Blundeston	36	39	26	14	15	33	30	42
Brinsford	281	304	326	344	187	187	324	148
Bristol	107	84	100	95	85	73	72	55
Brixton	130	122	106	73	40	60	78	83
Bronzefield	n/a	n/a	37	92	113	98	103	101
Buckley Hall	46	72	76	62	57	37	24	19
Bullingdon	59	40	36	59	44	68	87	85
Bullwood Hall	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	20	15	10	12	7
Bure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Camp Hill	47	67	51	54	55	56	70	48
Canterbury	9	[1]—	12	15	13	20	30	32
Cardiff	46	51	53	50	47	25	19	14
Castington	363	312	384	361	360	385	431	424
Channings Wood	12	21	22	38	53	54	56	48
Chelmsford	60	63	84	68	105	32	39	135
Coldingley	[1]—	[1]—	17	8	20	11	13	27
Cookham Wood	9	13	7	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	19	95
Dartmoor	25	21	15	30	26	27	38	29
Deerbolt	154	167	204	164	152	160	180	214
Doncaster	87	39	77	94	144	127	192	412
Dorchester	9	13	11	19	18	33	26	25
Dovegate	40	56	75	66	66	55	44	51
Dover	14	16	9	9	23	64	47	38
Downview	13	6	14	28	25	12	12	24
Drake Hall	[1]—	13	7	9	6	21	8	21
Durham	65	59	79	89	146	127	120	84
East Sutton Park	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Eastwood Park	15	26	33	51	47	15	10	14
Edmunds Hill	[1]—	47	26	23	27	27	21	34
Elmley	88	84	104	134	100	125	122	104
Erlestoke	6	10	26	26	22	35	38	23
Everthorpe	9	[1]—	20	42	65	69	61	56
Exeter	37	37	26	34	35	24	38	61
Featherstone	60	52	54	69	70	90	103	62
Feltham	459	568	573	547	475	427	551	604
Ford	7	[1]—	20	17	6	6	10	[1]—
Forest Bank	304	308	397	429	339	213	233	227
Foston Hall	17	19	26	26	23	28	10	14
Frankland	15	21	18	24	26	31	41	42
Full Sutton	9	15	27	36	45	52	52	49
Garth	36	23	26	59	63	65	92	77
Gartree	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	10	8	12	9	10
Glen Parva	222	240	230	269	341	364	464	538
Gloucester	56	36	62	41	56	47	63	66
Grendon	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6
Guys Marsh	43	41	49	43	57	73	68	49
Haslar	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	8	15	9
Haverigg	19	17	22	30	41	68	80	73
Hewell Cluster	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	67	127
Hewell: Blakenhurst	271	258	192	149	151	213	87	[1]—
Hewell: Brockhill	23	25	19	28	20	8	7	[1]—
Hewell: Hewell Grange	[1]—	[1]—	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
High Down	85	98	119	101	134	118	157	117
Highpoint	130	82	92	73	74	80	82	87
Hindley	88	177	63	112	348	498	491	485
Hollesley Bay	179	45	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Holloway	98	91	80	94	121	118	112	56
Holme House	71	89	69	86	98	124	96	106
Hull	84	91	168	166	121	140	87	107
Huntercombe	45	77	79	95	184	280	393	308
Kennet	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—	27	35
Kingston	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Kirkham	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Kirklevington	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Lancaster	12	11	[1]—	10	10	20	13	9
Lancaster Farms	130	16	185	435	362	356	326	264
Latchmere House	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Leeds	95	154	138	109	104	92	81	75
Leicester	70	59	53	42	51	34	40	58

Table 1: Recorded prisoner-on-prisoner assaults by prison: 2002-09

	Number of incidents							
Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Lewes	89	104	60	62	73	63	130	90
Leyhill	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6	7	[1]—	[1]—	6
Lincoln	82	69	50	56	60	87	123	60
Lindholme	17	43	42	33	37	52	57	47
Littlehey	31	32	37	41	39	38	22	24
Liverpool	94	108	119	128	162	226	222	207
Long Lartin	16	17	16	36	38	43	29	29
Low Newton	94	117	88	62	68	65	74	54
Lowdham Grange	20	20	20	37	73	41	47	26
Maidstone	16	10	21	14	11	19	16	15
Manchester	191	218	187	142	172	127	143	144
Moorland	177	139	34	94	89	91	86	85
Moorland Open	28	11	[1]—	8	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Morton Hall	7	13	16	9	15	12	8	14
Mount	17	25	16	55	48	45	77	68
New Hall	47	32	77	84	44	56	64	39
North Sea Camp	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	[1]—	[1]—	8
Northallerton	80	82	87	104	82	100	99	72
Norwich	132	128	11	20	40	13	[1]—	[1]—
Nottingham	61	66	74	64	55	85	83	74
Onley	516	509	161	152	153	216	222	170
Parc	198	233	227	247	241	314	381	376
Parkhurst	16	34	38	37	33	11	16	19
Pentonville	129	165	120	139	155	145	186	200
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	221	220	213	200
Portland	71	67	129	154	127	193	166	148
Preston	23	73	67	78	78	105	117	120
Ranby	39	38	19	30	52	42	67	75
Reading	7	23	25	76	57	45	25	46
Risley	44	63	110	103	104	108	112	64
Rochester	33	51	102	78	100	75	143	187
Rye Hill	10	19	40	54	65	66	35	19
Send	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	17	11	8	13	9
Shepton Mallet	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Shrewsbury	35	44	41	50	29	39	40	21
Spring Hill	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Stafford	11	19	41	58	39	76	62	60
Standford Hill	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Stocken	37	38	34	39	43	60	58	47
Stoke Heath	239	137	239	438	505	526	500	409
Styal	17	9	29	25	39	58	39	22
Sudbury	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Swaleside	31	26	29	33	41	52	57	54
Swansea	9	16	16	20	30	19	26	24
Swinfen Hall	127	110	96	104	89	88	88	56
Thorn Cross	56	43	7	19	143	84	42	31
Usk\Prescoed	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	11	14	[1]—
Verne	10	13	16	22	9	10	18	14
Wakefield	10	8	18	25	24	17	36	20
Wandsworth	54	51	74	77	69	95	59	79
Warren Hill	[1]—	93	162	257	268	321	333	270
Wayland	25	65	51	59	49	58	56	54
Wealstun	9	14	7	9	28	24	41	26
Weare	48	52	55	23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wellingborough	12	17	12	31	49	35	77	122
Werrington	134	133	111	140	144	140	197	152
Wetherby	41	175	414	492	403	353	388	367
Whatton	[1]—	9	[1]—	[1]—	8	16	26	20
Whitemoor	30	18	18	21	22	31	27	24
Winchester	43	67	57	47	35	26	29	45
Wolds	52	27	41	23	30	49	50	31
Woodhill	7	27	51	66	57	52	93	57
Wormwood Scrubs	69	89	129	141	147	137	123	108
Wymott	[1]—	8	[1]—	9	24	30	28	44

Table 2: Recorded prisoner-on-officer assaults by prison 2002-09

	Number of incidents							
Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Acklington	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	9	9	8
Albany	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Altcourse	46	44	40	45	36	51	43	40
Ashfield	124	62	71	152	128	86	130	75
Ashwell	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Askham Grange	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Aylesbury	12	15		15	18	13	29	24
Bedford	17	13	10	14	27	12	13	11
Belmarsh	82	52	44	34	22	22	14	27
Birmingham	53	58	83	94	78	78	73	62
Blantyre House	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Blundeston	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	7	[1]—	11	6
Brinsford	24	31	26	17	8	12	17	10
Bristol	51	25	45	28	41	14	34	31
Brixton	73	48	64	49	37	36	31	49
Bronzefield	n/a	n/a	17	85	77	41	80	65
Buckley Hall	12	36	16	23	10	11	9	[1]—
Bullingdon	24	23	14	15	23	21	21	19
Bullwood Hall	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	8	7	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Bure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Camp Hill	8	12	8	12	[1]—	10	16	[1]—
Canterbury	[1]—	7	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	8	[1]—
Cardiff	14	11	15	19	14	[1]—	[1]—	7
Castington	53	52	53	50	42	41	30	32
Channings Wood	[1]—	[1]—	10	8	7	16	17	12
Chelmsford	26	15	23	37	51	21	13	42
Coldingley	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	[1]—	[1]—
Cookham Wood	[1]—	14	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	23
Dartmoor	11	10	[1]—	11	7	8	15	10
Deerbolt	9	[1]—	26	32	21	34	36	28
Doncaster	30	25	22	24	45	28	16	38
Dorchester	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9	9	8	8	11
Dovegate	29	46	75	34	55	41	15	17
Dover	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	12	26	10
Downview	10	6	7	30	9	11	6	[1]—
Drake Hall	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Durham	24	34	29	41	43	57	60	62
East Sutton Park	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

Table 2: Recorded prisoner-on-officer assaults by prison 2002-09

	Number of incidents							
Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Eastwood Park	[1]—	14	9	21	26	8	6	[1]—
Edmunds Hill	[1]—	9	20	9	13	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Elmley	23	25	20	30	17	27	39	22
Erlestoke	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9	6	
Everthorpe	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9	13	12	6	15
Exeter	12	11	[1]—	7	11	8	6	[1]—
Featherstone	17	8	18	[1]—	9	16	7	10
Feltham	83	103	172	131	116	104	90	97
Ford	[1]—	[1]—	7	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Forest Bank	39	62	75	83	50	33	28	36
Foston Hall	28	14	8	11	25	25	12	17
Frankland	12	[1]—	13	9	10	19	13	20
Full Sutton	7	11	11	18	12	8	19	13
Garth	8	10	6	6	8	8	11	12
Gartree	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Glen Parva	41	28	39	31	40	50	38	50
Gloucester	12	13	6	12	13	6	6	17
Grendon	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Guys Marsh	[1]—	6	[1]—	[1]—	12	15	16	18
Haslar	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Haverigg	[1]—	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	17	10	15
Hewell Cluster	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9	23
Hewell: Blakenhurst	10	25	51	44	31	35	12	[1]—
Hewell: Brockhill	13	[1]—	10	14	9	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Hewell: Hewell Grange	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
High Down	59	45	56	38	69	66	99	60
Highpoint	46	20	18	13	22	20	25	26
Hindley	25	23	13	30	55	41	52	76
Hollesley Bay	18	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Holloway	88	88	93	78	99	91	95	48
Holme House	13	20	18	27	24	20	14	20
Hull	16	27	29	33	23	30	20	22
Huntercombe	15	18	15	14	32	22	31	63
Kennet	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Kingston	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Kirkham	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Kirklevington	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Lancaster	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Lancaster Farms	20	10	27	46	52	32	16	22
Latchmere House	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Leeds	57	75	39	36	16	18	17	26
Leicester	15	11	[1]—	7	16	7	9	[1]—
Lewes	14	20	10	15	13	14	20	14
Leyhill	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Lincoln	22	11	22	20	15	22	34	22
Lindholme	[1]—	18	[1]—	12	13	19	22	9
Littlehey	6	12	10	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Liverpool	37	46	35	21	18	30	34	23
Long Lartin	7	[1]—	[1]—	15	11	15	9	9
Low Newton	27	16	25	27	19	18	24	16
Lowdham Grange	[1]—	[1]—	12	16	34	39	31	11
Maidstone	[1]—	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Manchester	53	58	60	69	65	77	69	79
Moorland	22	21	13	20	16	14	21	[1]—
Moorland Open	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Morton Hall	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6
Mount	[1]—	13	7	8	15	20	20	23
New Hall	25	21	14	23	57	46	24	22
North Sea Camp	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Northallerton	6	11	13	10	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Norwich	24	24	17	18	17	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Nottingham	12	15	28	12	22	43	27	34
Onley	68	86	13	27	29	23	13	14
Parc	27	55	57	44	48	49	53	61
Parkhurst	9	18	16	14	[1]—	12	[1]—	[1]—
Pentonville	113	90	94	120	59	61	86	70
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	n/a	72	134	112	75	78
Portland	22	15	41	37	41	37	24	20
Preston	10	9	18	24	29	44	47	21
Ranby	9	8	[1]—	[1]—	16	16	26	17
Reading	6	7	16	14	11	9	11	[1]—
Risley	15	18	26	32	28	23	22	9
Rochester		15	16	23	13	[1]—	30	30
Rye Hill	18	20	38	65	47	41	14	8
Send	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Shepton Mallet	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Shrewsbury	[1]—	11	[1]—	[1]—	6	[1]—	[1]—	6
Spring Hill	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Stafford	8	10	6	13	11	8	9	8
Standford Hill	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Stocken	10	11	9	12	7	9	15	6
Stoke Heath	49	20	37	52	64	66	54	60
Styal	[1]—	7	12	13	32	45	18	10
Sudbury	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Swaleside	31	18	16	7	10	[1]—	7	22
Swansea	[1]—	6	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Swinfen Hall	7	8	[1]—	10	9	9	10	8
Thorn Cross	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Usk\Prescoed	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Verne	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Wakefield	7	7	7	10	8	12	12	15
Wandsworth	79	73	84	86	36	31	36	44
Warren Hill	[1]—	12	19	34	35	46	44	35
Wayland	7	11	8	[1]—	9	10	18	12
Wealstun	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6	12	7
Weare	9	10	6	[1]—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wellingborough	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	16	13	[1]—	13	7
Werrington	7	22	18	19	20	13	30	21
Wetherby	9	11	70	66	56	35	40	47
Whatton	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	11	[1]—	[1]—
Whitemoor	22	15	16	18	10	22	18	16

Table 2: Recorded prisoner-on-officer assaults by prison 2002-09

	Number of incidents							
Prison	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Winchester	14	13	14	10	10	[1]—	[1]—	15
Wolds	12	7	10	[1]—	8	[1]—	7	[1]—
Woodhill	16	35	39	72	68	52	39	19
Wormwood Scrubs	54	37	69	58	54	69	63	49
Wymott	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9	9

n/a = Not applicable—prison not open.

[1] Numbers less than 6 are not provided.

Notes:

1. A new key performance indicator for serious assaults was introduced in 2003-04 and as a result reporting of all assault incidents improved. Reported incidents before 2005 are therefore not directly comparable with later figures. It is now expected that all assaults, including fights, should be reported whether or not there was an injury. As this was not the case in the past care needs to be taken when interpreting changes over the years.

2. Rises or falls in numbers of assault incidents from one year to the next are not a good indicator of underlying trend. Changes to prisons will affect numbers of incidents. In addition, some prisons may have opened new wings/house blocks or closed others for refurbishment. These often explain large increases or decreases from one year to the next.

3. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Although the figures are shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Private Rented Housing: Landlords

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many landlords have been *(a)* sentenced to custody and *(b)* fined for offences related to lettings in the private rented sector under the provisions of each relevant Act in each quarter of the last three years. [12090]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of offenders sentenced at all courts for offences under the Housing Act 2004 (which covers most offences by landlords), England and Wales 2006 to 2008 (latest available). Other than where specified in the statute, information held by the Ministry of Justice on its court proceedings database does not identify a defendant's professional status, which includes whether or not they were a landlord.

Landlords may also be prosecuted under the Rent Act 1977 or the Landlords and Tenants Act 1985, but information collated under these Acts cannot identify the landlord from other defendants either.

Number sentenced at all courts under the Housing Act 2004[1], 2006-08

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Fine	6	37	123
Conditional discharge	—	2	3
Otherwise dealt with[2]	—	—	3
Absolute discharge	—	1	—
Community sentence	—	—	—
Suspended sentence	—	—	—
Immediate custody	—	—	—
Total sentenced	6	40	129

[1] Comprises:

Summary offences except under SS.72(1), (2) and (6), 95(1) and (5), 139, 236 and 241

Summary offences connected with HMO and housing licences

Failure to comply with overcrowding order or obstructing a relevant person in performance of anything required by Parts 1 to 4 of this Act

Intentionally altering, suppressing or destroying document required to be produced under S.235 notice

[2] The category 'other' includes: one day in police cells, disqualification order, restraining order, confiscation order, travel restriction order, disqualification from driving, and recommendation for deportation and other miscellaneous disposals.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Prosecutions: Students

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many individuals have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of failing to declare student status under section 112 or 111 of the Social Securities Administration Act 1992; [12378]

(2) how many prosecutions there have been under section 112 of the Social Securities Administration Act 1992 since 2001; and in how many of those cases *(a)* a guilty plea was entered and *(b)* a guilty verdict was returned after a plea of not guilty was entered. [12416]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 111 or 112 of the Social Securities Administration Act 1992 in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2008 (latest available) are shown in the following tables.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on individuals proceeded against is limited to the description provided in the statute. Sections 111 and 112 of the Social Securities Act 1992 do not separately identify individuals that failed to declare their student status, these figures are not available.

Information on guilty pleas at the magistrates courts are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice. As cases under sections 111 and 112 of the Social Securities Administration Act 1992 will be heard at the magistrates court, plea data are not available.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number[1] of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under section 111 or 112[2] of the Social Securities Administration Act 1992, in England and Wales, for the years 2001-08

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*	
Statute	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Section 111 (a) Social Securities Administration Act 1992								

Number[1] of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under section 111 or 112[2] of the Social Securities Administration Act 1992, in England and Wales, for the years 2001-08

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*	
Statute	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Persons	343	293	233	197	246	202	370	303
Others[3]	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
Total	343	293	234	197	249	202	370	303
Section 111 (b) Social Securities Administration Act 1992								
Persons	2,160	1,945	2,260	1,993	2,078	1,838	2,855	2,455
Others[3]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,160	1,945	2,260	1,993	2,078	1,838	2,855	2,455
Section 112 Social Securities Administration Act 1993								
Persons	7,590	6,296	7,033	5,796	7,431	6,072	6,788	5,689
Others[3]	0	0	3	3	2	1	3	2
Total	7,590	6,296	7,036	5,799	7,433	6,073	6,791	5,691

	2005		*2006*		*2007*		*2008[4]*	
Statute	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Section 111 (a) Social Securities Administration Act 1992								
Persons	522	414	457	369	554	453	194	153
Others[3]	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0
Total	523	414	458	370	555	454	196	153
Section 111 (b) Social Securities Administration Act 1992								
Persons	4,012	3,453	5,719	4,871	7,031	6,024	6,440	5,355
Others[3]	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Total	4,013	3,454	5,719	4,871	7,032	6,024	6,441	5,356
Section 112 Social Securities Administration Act 1993								
Persons	6,206	5,007	4,327	3,239	3,049	2,458	3,348	2,704
Others[3]	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0
Total	6,208	5,008	4,330	3,241	3,049	2,458	3,348	2,704

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] The following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions have been used:

Social Security Administration Act 1992 S.111(a)(b)—Wilful obstruction of an inspector or authorised officer; failure to produce documents or furnish information

Social Security Administration Act 1992 Sec.111A as added by Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997 Sec 13.—Dishonest representation for obtaining benefit etc.

Social Security Administration Act 1992 Sec 112 False representation. Contravention of regulations etc.

[3] Others includes companies and public bodies

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Public Contract Regulations 2006

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Legal Services Commission has taken to ensure compliance with Regulation 15(8) of the Public Contract Regulations 2006 regarding access to electronic documentation in respect of tender processes in 2010. [12588]

Mr Djanogly: Regulation 15 (8) of the Public Contract Regulations 2006 states:

> "Where the contracting authority does not offer unrestricted and full direct access by electronic means to the contract documents in accordance with paragraph (6), the contracting authority shall send the contract documents to an economic operator within six days of the receipt of a request from that economic operator, provided that the documents are requested in good time before the date specified in the contract notice as the final date for the receipt by it of tenders".

While the Legal Services Commission (LSC) is not under a strict obligation to comply with this in respect of its legal services contracts (as they are classified as Tart B contracts), the LSC has offered unrestricted and full direct access to the 2010 contract documentation for the purposes of the 2010 tender exercises for mainstream publicly funded civil and crime services. The contract documentation was made available at the time of the tenders via the LSC website to all applicant organisations.

Public Procurement Law

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance the Legal Services Commission has issued on compliance with public procurement law relating on terms and conditions of tenders in respect of (i) non-discrimination, (ii) equal treatment, (iii) transparency, (iv) mutual recognition and (v) proportionality to those responsible for formulating such terms and conditions. [12876]

Mr Djanogly: The drafting of the contract and tender Terms and Conditions was supervised by the Legal Service Commission's (LSC) legal team which consists of qualified solicitors with extensive experience in public procurement exercises. The legal team were assisted by external solicitors and counsel on various aspects of this procurement exercise. The legal team also delivered appropriate training and guidance on procurement legal principles to assessors. The LSC's procurement team, some of whom are qualified by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, were also involved.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the location is of each rape crisis centre in England and Wales. [13229]

Mr Blunt: Victims of rape and sexual assault can seek support from a range of voluntary-sector providers, including rape crisis centres. The Government do not currently hold details of the location of each rape crisis centre in England and Wales.

The commitment made in the Coalition agreement to provide stable, long-term funding to existing rape crisis centres remains a priority and, as part of efforts to deliver this commitment, work is under way to map rape crisis centre provision throughout England and Wales. The results of this analysis, including the locations of centres and details of how we intend to deliver the commitment, will be made public later in the year once the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review are known.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times handcuffs have been used on children in each secure training centre in each of the last five years; and for what purpose in each case. [11463]

Mr Blunt: It is essential that approved and effective techniques are available to staff in custodial establishments who find themselves dealing with young people whose behaviour puts the young people themselves, or others, at risk. Handcuffs are permitted for use in secure training centres only in exceptional circumstances where their use would be the safest option. Any use of handcuffs must be approved by the director of the centre.

The available information is set out in the following table. The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Use of handcuffs in secure training centres, 2006 to 2010[1]

	Medway	*Rainsbrook*	*Oakhill*	*Hassockfield*
2006	0	0	7	36
2007	0	0	0	9
2008	0	0	0	7
2009	0	0	0	1
2010	0	0	0	4

[1] Data supplied by the Youth Justice Board.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times children have been made to kneel down on the ground to have handcuffs attached or removed in each secure training centre in each of the last five years. [11464]

Mr Blunt: It is essential that approved and effective techniques are available to staff in custodial establishments who find themselves dealing with young people whose behaviour puts the young people themselves, or others, at risk. Handcuffs are permitted for use in secure training centres only in exceptional circumstances where their use would be the safest option. Any use of handcuffs must be approved by the director of the centre.

The available data, provided by the Youth Justice Board, indicates that no young people were made to kneel down to have handcuffs attached or removed in the past five years. Data for Oakhill between June 2005 and June 2007 are not available. The data have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Solicitors: Children

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of Children's Panel-accredited solicitors based in Bridgend in each year from 2000 to 2010; and if he will make a statement; [13189]

(2) what estimate has been made of the number of Children's Panel-accredited solicitors there will be in Bridgend from October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [13190]

Mr Djanogly: The Law Society runs the Children Panel Accreditation Scheme. The Legal Services Commission therefore does not hold records of membership of this accreditation scheme.

The tender process for the 2010 Standard Civil Contracts run by the LSC is ongoing and will be complete only once all appeals are completed and necessary pre-contract verification checks have finished. As part of these processes the LSC anticipates that there may be some movement of provision with additional contracts being awarded to those successful at appeal and potential withdrawal of offers if verification identifies that organisations are not in a position to deliver the work provisionally awarded. The LSC estimates that these two processes will be completed in mid September, after which time they will have a final list of organisations delivering family services in Bridgend and will at that time be able to provide information on the numbers of children's panel members delivering services under the new contracts.

Young Offender Institutions

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual cost to the public purse was of a place in *(a)* HMP Hollesley Bay, *(b)* HMP Warren Hill and *(c)* Warren Hill Young Offender Institution in each of the last two years. [12008]

Mr Blunt: The average annual cost of a place is as follows:

		£
Establishment	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Hollesley Bay	20,408	20,100
Warren Hill	44,147	44,580

The figures are based on the financial outturns for each year and the average certified normal accommodation (CNA). HMP & YOI Warren Hill has been a juvenile holding establishment for the period referred to and therefore there is only one figure presented.

Youth Custody: Restraint Techniques

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 181W, on youth custody: restraint techniques, what piloting of new systems of restraint he has undertaken since October 2009. [13068]

Mr Blunt: As part of the ongoing work to implement the recommendations in the Independent Review of Restraint, the National Tactical Response Group is developing a new behaviour management and restraint system which is intended to replace PCC (the system currently used in Secure Training Centres). This new system will be examined and accredited by a panel of medical and operational experts. The accreditation process will begin this autumn. Once accredited an early adaptor site will be identified and the system assessed further before wider roll-out is considered.

WALES

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13036]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Records before 2004 do not exist for the reimbursement of staff expenses. In recent years staff have sometimes filed claims spanning a number of months but submitted one claim, and it is those claims that usually feature in the 10 largest in each year. The figures for each year from 2004 along with the 10 highest claims in each year are as follows:

		£
	T and S Highest Claim	*Total for year*
2004-05		17,543
1	1,131.50	
2	972.36	
3	513.20	
4	503.55	
5	490.74	
6	411.70	
7	357.60	
8	346.41	
9	318.35	
10	291.35	
2005-06		28,537
1	914.21	
2	891.95	
3	679.10	
4	588.55	
5	580.65	
6	552.35	
7	546.40	
8	531.50	
9	468.82	
10	458.30	
2006-07		37,182
1	1,230.12	
2	739.32	
3	630.27	
4	558.95	
5	554.80	
6	540.55	
7	538.67	
8	454.57	
9	429.16	
10	429.13	
2007-08		47,779
1	514.60	
2	512.20	
3	488.70	
4	425.77	
5	403.30	
6	399.06	
7	386.80	
8	364.35	
9	360.60	
10	357.15	
2008-09		76,815
1	1,942.13	
2	864.53	
3	809.10	

		£
	T and S Highest Claim	Total for year
4	645.60	
5	595.70	
6	560.60	
7	517.15	
8	513.80	
9	470.70	
10	461.50	
2009-10		77,078
1	3,032.81	
2	793.67	
3	549.40	
4	523.10	
5	519.12	
6	508.94	
7	484.54	
8	469.85	
9	458.00	
10	436.60	

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Public Buildings: Environment Protection

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives his Department provides for public buildings to be built in an environmentally friendly way. [13226]

Andrew Stunell: Communities and Local Government is responsible for the England and Wales Building Regulations. These set out the standards which new buildings must meet, and Part L of the Regulations (conservation of fuel and power) sets out energy efficiency standards for all new domestic and non-domestic buildings. The current Part L represents 90% improvement on 1990 standards, and in October 2010, the new standards will specify a further 25% reduction in carbon emissions from new buildings compared to the current 2006 Regulations. The Building Regulations cover all public buildings apart from the Crown Estate (buildings owned by Government Departments). There are no incentives offered for complying with the regulations, but the Government's proposed Green Deal will provide building occupiers with access to funding for energy efficiency measures, to be repaid through savings on their energy bills.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 8 September 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist small and medium-sized enterprises. [14169]

Mr Prisk: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for more than 99% of private businesses, and SME performance and activity is clearly a key driver of the UK economy. If we are to promote growth in the economy, we need to address the challenges that small businesses face providing: a predictable tax system that rewards endeavour; better access to both debt and equity finance; less red tape; a skilled workforce; and support for exports to markets around the globe.

That is why June's Budget announced a series of measures aimed at helping small businesses, including:

> A £200 million extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG), to benefit around 2,000 extra small businesses. In total, the EFG will now support up to £700 million in bank lending to viable small businesses.
>
> A new Enterprise Capital Fund to support small businesses with high growth potential—combining both Government and private sector funding.
>
> Confirmation of a Growth Capital Fund, to provide funding of between £2 million and £10 million for SMEs with strong growth potential.
>
> Creation of a Regional Growth Fund in 2011-12 and 2012-13, encouraging private sector enterprise to help areas adjust to reductions in public spending, particularly in those places most reliant on public sector employment.

Two key areas of concern to small businesses are ensuring that there is less red tape and being able to access the finance they need to grow. We have already committed to introducing a "one-in, one-out" rule for new regulations, sunset clauses, a new Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee and an immediate review of all inherited regulation in the pipeline. We have also published a joint consultation with the Treasury on business finance, aimed at ensuring that the banking system and financial markets meet the needs of the economy over the long term. This is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

We are also making it easier for small businesses to bid for public sector contracts, with an aspiration that 25% of all Government procurement should be from SMEs. Together with the Office of Government Commerce, this Department is taking forward measures in this area. For example, by the end of 2010, businesses will be able to gain free and easy online access to all new central Government tender documents for contracts over £10,000. This will be a significant step forward, as currently only contracts worth over £20,000 are available online.

Business Link West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of Business Link West Midlands; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Business Link West Midlands in *(a)* supporting access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises, *(b)* assisting businesses to diversify, *(c)* assisting businesses to increase their efficiency and *(d)* assisting businesses to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions; and what steps he plans to take to maintain levels of support for access to business finance in the west midlands. [12566]

Mr Prisk: The Department is committed to modernising how support, information and advice are provided to businesses. With the proposed reform of the regional development agencies who manage the service in the regions, we are currently considering how services are best delivered in the future. The spending review and current financial realities mean that we are also examining how to deliver these within a smaller overall Department budget.

No decision will be taken on the future of Business Link, not only in the west midlands but across England, until all the options have been properly considered.

In terms of Business Link West Midlands's effectiveness, during 2009/10 the Business Link:

> *(a)* Provided support for access to finance to 731 businesses, with 360 of these undertaking in depth consultancy support helping them to raise over £15 million of external finance.
>
> *(b)* Helped 300 businesses to diversify into new markets or products, with these businesses investing over £2 million of their own funds to do so.
>
> *(c)* and *(d)* Supported over 200 businesses via it's Resource Efficiency programme, which was only launched in September 2009 to help businesses to reduce costs and their carbon footprint, and to increase their competitiveness. However, it is too early to be able to measure the impact on carbon dioxide emissions.

Lastly, the Government have also launched a consultation paper 'Financing a Private Sector Recovery', which closes to responses on 20 September 2010 and this will help inform our future approach to supporting businesses to access appropriate finance.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the west midlands of the reduction in funding allocated to Business Link West Midlands. [12567]

Mr Prisk: Responsibility for, and the decisions on, funding to Business Link West Midlands, rests with Advantage West Midlands Development Agency, not the Department.

Following the Chancellor's budget statement on 24 May all RDA's were tasked with finding budget cuts for 2009/10 of £270 million. As a consequence of this all RDAs have reviewed their contractual commitments to all projects and services that they fund to identify areas where budget savings can be made.

I cannot quantify the impact these will make on the ability of the Business Link West Midlands to support businesses either in Coventry or the west midlands as a whole, as the detail of where cuts will fall are still being worked through.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13327]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010 and in line with other Government Departments, BIS has recorded and published the proportion of invoices paid within five working days of receipt. The Department publishes this information at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/procurement/prompt-payment/bis-payment-performance

However, during July and August 2010, the Department paid 98.6% and 99% on invoices within 10 working days or receipt respectively. In the same period, the Department paid 93.9% of invoices in both months within five working days.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13024]

Mr Davey: This Department and its predecessors have had an active estates rationalisation programme since 2000 and have successfully let vacant space on its core HQ estate to other Government Departments. The only vacant space we currently have on the core estate is 800 square metres at St Mary's House in Sheffield. This has been vacant since April 2006 with costs as follows:

	£
2006/07	129,200
2007/08	145,700
2008/09	174,800
2009/10	220,500

Previously, two floors at Atholl House, Aberdeen, were vacant during the financial years 2004/05 until 2007/08. The costs incurred during each of these years was as follows:

	£
2004/05	199,400
2005/06	297,800
2006/07	302,100
2007/08	325,200

After the dissolution of the Learning Skills Council in April 2010, properties not required for the Skills Funding Agency or the Young People's Learning Agency were transferred back to this Department. There are currently 19 properties with vacant space which falls within the BIS estate at an estimated cost this financial year of £8.8 million. An active programme to market this space to seek tenants is under way.

Finally, in April 2010, ownership of Investors in People was transferred from this Department to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills leaving one vacant floor in 7-10 Chandos Street, London. The estimated cost of this space for the current financial year is £430,000.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13321]

Mr Davey: The Department has not settled any transport related fines on behalf of staff in any of the years since 2005.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many unpaid, expenses-only internships there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility in the last 12 months. [13808]

Mr Davey: There have been no unpaid or expenses-only interns in the last 12 months.

Export Credits: India

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department will provide assistance for the recently-announced sale of Hawk jets to India. [13450]

Mr Davey: ECGD will not be providing assistance for the sale of Hawk jets to India.

Insolvency

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward proposals to set a cap on the fees charged by insolvency practitioners. [13597]

Mr Davey: We currently have no plans to introduce legislation to cap the level of fees charged by insolvency practitioners. Power to set such fees rests with the creditors or the court.

However, the Government are considering their response to the Office of Fair Trading's review into the corporate insolvency market, published on 24 June 2010. In that review the Office of Fair Trading recommended that the complaints process should be extended to include complaints over fees charged by insolvency practitioners. In advance of the Government's full response it would be inappropriate to comment on one separate recommendation at this stage.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage greater transparency in the insolvency sector. [13598]

Mr Davey: In March, the Insolvency Service published the second annual Review of Insolvency Practitioner Regulation. The review sets out the essential features of the regulatory regime that governs insolvency practitioners, what the public and businesses can expect from it and what steps the regulators are taking to improve it.

Changes were also made to the procedural insolvency rules in England and Wales in April to require insolvency practitioners to provide more information to creditors on the progress of insolvency cases, in particular in relation to remuneration and other expenses incurred. Additionally, creditors have been given new rights to request further information from the office holder on the remuneration and expenses shown in the progress reports that they are sent.

The Office of Fair Trading recently issued a report on its market study into the operation of the corporate insolvency industry and the Government are studying its findings prior to issuing a response.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average time taken to settle an insolvency case was in the latest period for which figures are available. [13599]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service does not record this information.

Following the introduction of the Enterprise Act 2002, administration has a statutory time limit of 12 months, although this may be extended with the permission of the court or by the agreement of creditors.

Liquidations do not have a statutory time limit, but research conducted by the Insolvency Service suggests that the average length of a liquidation is around 2 to 2.5 years.

The Enterprise Act 2002 also introduced a statutory 12-month time limit for bankruptcy, and provides for earlier discharge in some cases.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to review the regulation of the Insolvency Service. [13600]

Mr Davey: At present, operation of the Insolvency Service is regulated through the requirement to produce, and lay in Parliament, an annual corporate plan, as well as annual fees orders, which set the fees charged by official receivers for their work in dealing with bankruptcy and insolvency case administration. For the service's work in company investigation and enforcement, and redundancy payments, funding is set through allocations made from BIS and HMRC respectively and the level of this allocation is made in response to submissions from the service to each Department, as part of their wider budget-setting.

For all areas of the service, the corporate plan sets out its vision for delivering services, with particular emphasis on its plans and targets for the coming year. The plan is reviewed by BIS to ensure that its goals are realistic and that targets are achievable within the resources available, and yet are set at a level to stretch the organisation. Performance against the targets and budgets is reported to the Minister on a quarterly basis.

There are no plans to make substantive changes to this reporting process.

Manufacturing Advisory Service

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the *(a)* Manufacturing Advisory Service and *(b)* Manufacturing Advisory Service West Midlands. [14146]

Mr Prisk: The Government fully recognises the vital role that is played by the Manufacturing Advisory Service, both nationally and in the west midlands, in helping UK manufacturers to improve productivity and achieve success in an increasingly competitive economy. Future funding for all business support, including the Manufacturing Advisory Service, is subject to the spending review which will be announced on 20 October 2010.

The Government considers that manufacturing will be an important component in rebalancing the economy and supporting UK growth in the future.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to encourage UK-based manufacturers to employ staff locally rather than import products, with particular reference to Rolls Royce Hucknall. [13076]

Mr Prisk: This Department recognises the importance to the UK of the advanced manufacturing sector and the high-value jobs it supports. Growth in this sector is an important part of creating a balanced and resilient economy. In a globally competitive market it must ultimately be a commercial decision for individual companies whether to manufacture items themselves or put work into the supply chain, either in the UK or overseas. However, we are committed to working with businesses, including Rolls-Royce, to create conditions that enable UK manufacturers to thrive; to see how we can better support employers and individuals to invest in learning and to develop the skills they and our economy need; and to promote best practice and effective employment relations.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many orders for vehicles were placed through the vehicle scrappage scheme. [13959]

Mr Prisk: The final figures for orders taken under the vehicle scrappage scheme will not be available until all outstanding claims under the scheme have been validated and paid. This work continues as final claims are submitted under the scheme.

Overseas Trade: Algeria

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the total level of trade between the UK and Algeria in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [14215]

Mr Prisk: Overseas trade statistics data for UK trade in goods with Algeria are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Algeria	*UK imports of goods from Algeria*
2005	145	473
2008	268	842
2009	327	540

Table 9.13 of the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book gives the following figures for UK trade in services with Algeria:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Algeria	*UK imports of services from Algeria*
2005[1]	109	113
2008	214	88
2009	157	65

[1] Data for services trade in 2005 are taken from the 2007 publication and may not be consistent with the later figures.

Post Offices

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the Post Office's branch business migration industry standard gravity model. [14027]

Mr Davey: This is commercially sensitive information and it is not appropriate for it to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 508, to the hon. Member for Norwich South, on the Post Office network, what account he is taking in his consideration of the case for a Post Office bank of the effects of such a bank on *(a)* sustaining the Post Office network and *(b)* the wider society and economy of the UK; and if he will make a statement. [13483]

Mr Davey: We want Post Offices to offer a wide range of services including financial and Government services—to generate revenues in order to help sustain the network. Post Offices already play an important role in putting essential financial services within everyone's reach, in particular those who may have difficulty accessing other providers. The size of the Post Office network means that important services are available throughout the country: the access criteria for the Post Office network ensure that 99% of the UK population are within three miles of their nearest post office outlet, and in deprived urban areas 99% are within one mile of their nearest post office outlet.

Regional Development Agencies

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who will have responsibility for regional economic and skills strategies after regional development agencies have been abolished. [12144]

Mr Prisk: We do not intend to have a requirement for a central public body to produce a regional economic or skills strategy.

Regional Development Agencies: Information Officers

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many press officers each regional development agency employed in each year since 2005; [11818]

(2) what the average salary of a press officer in a regional development agency was in each year since 2005. [11819]

Mr Prisk: The average press officer salary and numbers of press officers employed by the regional development agencies in each year since 2005 are set out in the following table.

Average press officer salary

	£
2005/06	25,268
2006/07	31,026
2007/08	27,095
2008/09	32,387
2009/10	33,561

Number of press officers (FTE)

RDA	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
AWM	2	2	2	3	2
EEDA	2.51	2	2.42	2.96	2
emda	2	2	2	2	2
LDA	1.06	2.25	4	1.16	3.58
NWDA	5.1	4.9	5.2	6	6
ONE	5	5	4	4	3.61
SEEDA	2	2.46	4	1.83	1.38
SWRDA	3	3	2.31	1.39	0.81
YF	3	2.5	4	4	3

Regional Development Agencies: Redundancy Pay

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what measures are in place to make severance provision for staff working for a regional development agency. [13887]

Mr Prisk: The regional development agency staff are eligible for severance payments under the Civil Service Compensation scheme as agreed by the Cabinet Office.

The regional development agencies will each consider when to introduce severance schemes according to business need during the transition period to closure following the Cabinet Office guidance.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Competition Commission on the supermarket sector. [13603]

Mr Davey: Ministers have not recently held any specific discussions with the Competition Commission (CC) on the supermarket sector. However, BIS Ministers and officials regularly meet with the CC to discuss a wide range of competition issues.

On 3 August the Government announced their proposals to set up the Groceries Code Adjudicator in response to a CC recommendation.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-law/docs/competition-matters/10-1011-groceries-supply-code-practice-government-response

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to bring forward proposals for the establishment of a grocery supply chain ombudsman. [13962]

Mr Davey: The Government's proposals to establish a Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) were published on 3 August 2010 in response to a public consultation held earlier in the year.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-law/docs/competition-matters/10-1011-groceries-supply-code-practice-government-response

We intend to publish a draft Bill during the first session to set up the GCA.

Window Blinds: Safety

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 319W, on "Window Blinds: Safety", what assessment he has made of the joint statement of 15 June 2010 from the US Administration, Health Canada and the European Commission on the safety of looped blind cords. [13638]

Mr Davey: The Government welcome the joint letter of 15 June by the Commission, Health Canada and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, to their respective standardisation organisations urging them to come to a swift and ideally harmonised response to the safety risks posed to young children by certain internal blinds. This letter has further highlighted the urgent need to take action if we are to eliminate this cause of injury and death.

The standard-setting process will take time and looks unlikely to be concluded until late 2011 at the earliest. In the meantime, this Department will continue to work with industry, through the British Blind and Shutter Association, and others like Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, and the Child Accident Prevention Trust in ensuring the appropriate safety messages are conveyed to consumers and retailers. To this end the Department has invited the major retailers of internal blinds to a safety seminar to be held on 27 September.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had on policies to increase public awareness of different cultures, religions and communities. [13362]

Andrew Stunell: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Minister for Decentralisation met leaders from the main faiths at an event hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace on 16 July 2010, where the big society was discussed. I met a diverse faith-based audience when I spoke at the annual meeting of the Inter Faith Network for the UK on 8 July 2010. The Government are working to help create a big society where everyone, whatever their background, is able to contribute to Britain's prosperity and to play their part in a proud and inclusive society.

Community Relations: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to promote community cohesion in Coventry. [14154]

Andrew Stunell: Cohesion in Coventry will be promoted by local activity arising through reforms linked to localism and the big society. Building cohesion requires a bottom-up approach that promotes social responsibility and uses the energy and ideals of citizens, communities and the voluntary sector to bring different people together. This Government are working to help create a big society where everyone, whatever their background, is able to contribute to Britain's prosperity and to play their part in a proud and inclusive society, bringing people to come together to solve problems and improve life for their communities.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13276]

Robert Neill: The Department's travel rules state clearly that individuals are personally liable for any parking/transport fines they incur.

EU Grants and Loans: North West

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the decision to freeze further North West Development Agency spending from funds allocated under the current European Regional Development Fund programme. [14011]

Robert Neill: There is not a freeze on RDAs spending funds allocated under the European Regional Development Fund. However, in view of the impending abolition of the RDAs, a moratorium has been placed on them providing match funding from their own resources where this goes beyond the 2010-11 financial year.

Potential ERDF beneficiaries should therefore continue to submit applications to the relevant Regional Development Agencies until new arrangements for the regional administration of the programmes have been announced.

Government Office for the West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he consulted *(a)* employees, *(b)* businesses and (c) local authorities in the west midlands before his decision to abolish the Government Office for the West Midlands. [12563]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) and the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs Ellman) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1037W.

Government Offices for the Regions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the savings which will accrue to the Exchequer consequent on the closure of the Government Office Network. [12564]

Greg Clark: On 22 July 2010 the Government announced their intention in principle to abolish the remaining Government offices. We anticipate savings from any final decision to close the Government offices. The exact sums will not be clear until the end of the spending review.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects on equalities in each region of the abolition of the Government Office Network. [12565]

Greg Clark: On 22 July 2010 the Government announced their intention in principle to abolish the remaining Government offices. Equality assessments on the impact on staff and delivery of Government policy are being carried out as part of the consideration of consequential issues referred to in the Secretary of State's announcement.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the savings that will be made in each region in England arising from the closure of the Government Office Network; what analysis his Department has made of such savings; and what methodology was used to calculate them. [14008]

Greg Clark: On 22 July 2010 the Government announced their intention in principle to abolish the remaining Government offices following consideration of consequential issues. We anticipate savings from any final decision to close the Government office network. These will be worked out as part of the spending review process with the exact sums to follow in the autumn.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of his Department's annual estate costs, including dilapidations, following the closure of the Government Office Network. [14010]

Greg Clark: The Department's annual estate running costs are estimated to be £21.5 million. The Department does not publish its estimates of dilapidations settlements as to do so may impact on the outcome of commercial negotiations or associated court proceedings.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what resources he has assigned to redeploying Government Office Network staff; and whether he has had discussions on this matter with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of the Cabinet Office. [14016]

Greg Clark: The Government office for London assigned existing resources to support the redeployment of staff. The Government office for London closed on 1 September with staff returning to their Departments for redeployment.

The Secretary of State's announcement on 22 July made clear that final decisions regarding the future of the Government offices will be made at the end of the spending review following consideration of consequential issues. Any decisions on resources for the redeployment of staff will therefore be made once the spending review is complete. Extensive discussions have taken place with Departments including Cabinet Office.

Housing: Construction

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of the council tax allowance for each unit of new build housing district councils will receive under the New Homes Bonus Scheme in the first six years of its operation; and to which bodies, and in what proportion, the remainder of the allowance will be allocated; [14120]

(2) how many new homes he expects to be built in each region under the New Homes Bonus Scheme in each year to 2014-15. [14121]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The previous Government's policy of centralist top down targets clearly failed. The New Homes Bonus will shift power back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils and give local communities a direct and substantial share in growth rather than just absorbing the costs.

In a letter to local authority leaders on 9 August, I set out my intention to consult on the specific design features of the New Homes Bonus alongside the spending review. A copy of this letter was sent to all MPs and placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Empty Property

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to make more effective use of unoccupied homes in tackling unmet housing needs. [13231]

Grant Shapps: We are looking closely at the cause and nature of empty homes and the full range of potential measures to bring empty homes back into use, as part of a well functioning housing market.

Local Government Finance

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of abolishing the floor damping factor in his next calculation of the local government finance settlement. [13679]

Robert Neill: Floor damping has a role in limiting changes in formula grant from one year to the next. The 2011-12 Local Government Finance settlement will be consulted on in the usual manner in due course.

Medway Council: Finance

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the grant to Medway council *(a)* with and *(b)* without floor damping in each of the last five years. [13680]

Robert Neill: Figures giving a breakdown of formula grant, including floor damping amounts, for the years requested for all authorities are available on our website. Figures for 2010-11 are at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1011/grant.htm

Floor damping amounts and formula grant allocated for Medway district council are:

£ million

	Floor damping	*Formula grant*
2010-11	-4.320	85.130
2009-10	-4.857	82.225
2008-09	-5.502	79.120
2007-08	-4.519	71.281
2006-07	-4.755	68.258

National Tenant Voice

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he had with representatives of tenants' groups *(a)* prior to and *(b)* after taking the decision to abolish National Tenant Voice. [13839]

Grant Shapps: I have had many discussions with tenants' groups over the past few years, and more recently with representatives of the National Tenant Voice (NTV), before taking the decision not to proceed with the NTV. I plan to meet representatives of the National Tenant Organisations shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Contract Rights Renewal Merger Undertakings

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on the future of the contract rights renewal merger undertakings. [13260]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with senior representatives from Ofcom about issues of interest. The contract rights renewal undertakings is one of a wide range of issues which have been covered in the course of these discussions.

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on responsibility for the contract rights renewal merger undertakings. [13261]

Hugh Robertson: My hon. Friend the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries has discussions with ministerial colleagues about a wide range of issues, relevant to his portfolio, and these have included the contract rights renewal undertakings.

Cricket

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with the International Cricket Council on measures to restore public trust in the sport. [14014]

Hugh Robertson: I hope to meet the President of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Sharad Pawar, to discuss what more we can do to support the true values of the game at the beginning of October during my visit to the Commonwealth games in Delhi.

Football: Maintenance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made on proposals to reform football governance to encourage and support the co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters. [13241]

Hugh Robertson: I am answering in my capacity as Minister for Sport and the Olympics. Our priority for football is to win the Football World Cup bid for 2018. However, co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters is a matter I take seriously and I will work closely with the football authorities on this issue. I am encouraged by plans from the Arsenal Supporters' Trust to increase supporter involvement in Arsenal Football Club and look forward to seeing how the scheme develops.

Mass Media: Prostitution

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the advertising of sexual services in newspapers and other mainstream media. [13806]

Hugh Robertson: The Government have no plans to prohibit the advertising of legally permitted sexual services in newspapers and other mainstream media. Non-broadcast advertising in the UK is strictly controlled through industry self-regulation, enforced by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). Broadcast advertising is similarly controlled by the ASA working in a co-regulatory partnership with Ofcom. This regulatory system is independent of Government and is ultimately responsible for setting the standards in advertising.

The advertising of legally permitted sexual services is subject to strict rules in both Advertising Codes on misleading the public, social responsibility, harm, and offence (with a particular emphasis on protecting children) and taking into account both the content of an advertisement and the context in which it appears. Advertisements found to be in breach of these rules are removed and prohibited from appearing again.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* Wolverhampton and *(c)* Wolverhampton North East constituency; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [13368]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses across the nations and regions that have won Olympic-related contracts directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) or in the supply chains of its contractors is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

http://www.london2012.com/business

Here you will also find information on businesses that have won contracts in the supply chains of the ODA's contractors.

The estimated value of the contracts awarded to businesses in the west midlands is to date £418,649,180. Of this, the figure for businesses in Wolverhampton is £261,785,842 and to date no businesses have been awarded contracts in the Wolverhampton North East constituency. The ODA is unable to release the value of individual contracts at this time as this is commercially sensitive information. These figures represent the committed spend to date, rather than the end contract value, as in many cases this will not yet be known. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Public Opinion

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 472W, on Olympic Delivery Authority, if he will place in the Library an analysis of the polling undertaken by the Olympic Delivery Authority over the last three years. [13602]

Hugh Robertson: The figures listed in the table provide a further breakdown of polling undertaken by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) over the last three years:

Polling undertaken by ODA Communications

	Amount (£)
2007-08	28,766.94
2008-09	12,328.69
2009-10	12,942.50

These figures are attributed to polling on the effectiveness of the ODA Community Relations activity and health, safety and environment site communications with workers.

Polling undertaken by ODA Transport

	Amount (£)
2007-08	90,000.00
2008-09	155,000.00
2009-10	50,000.00

These figures are attributed to attitudinal and awareness research with businesses and Londoners to 2012 Games, events monitoring research, and research carried out at existing events across the UK to verify and align transport modelling assumptions and data.

Olympic Games 2012: Walsall South

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of Walsall South constituency of the London 2012 Olympics. [13545]

Hugh Robertson: I have not made a specific assessment of the likely effect on the economy of the Walsall South constituency of the 2012 Games. However, Walsall South and the west midlands region stand to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games, through businesses winning Games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations.

Information on businesses across the nations and regions that have won Olympic-related contracts directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) or in the supply chains of its contractors is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

Here you will also find information about how businesses in the area can access Olympic-related opportunities.

You will also find information on the London 2012 website about other opportunities for the region to benefit economically, including pre-Games training camps:

http://trainingcamps.london2012.com

2012 sporting venues:

http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-sports/football.php

and about the Nations and Regions Group, which aims to maximise the economic, as well as sporting and cultural, benefits of the Games in the west midlands and across the UK:

http://www.london2012.com/about-us/the-people-delivering-the-games/the-nations-and-regions-group/index.php

Radio: Broadcasting

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of continuing transmissions from FM radio transmitters in each year after 2015. [13867]

Hugh Robertson: The Government have made no specific assessment of the cost to the public purse of continuing FM transmission in each year after 2015. However, such considerations will form part of the Government cost-benefit analysis, details of which are set out in the Digital Radio Action Plan.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of replacing FM radios after the cessation of FM transmissions in 2015. [13877]

Hugh Robertson: No cost to the public purse is anticipated. The Government have suggested that 2015 should be a target date for a digital radio switchover, and if a target date is set, we have stated that FM broadcasting would continue for community and small-scale local stations, for as long as it is needed and is viable. Therefore consumers' FM radios would not become obsolete as a result of the switchover.

The digital radio action plan sets out the Government's commitment to a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis to examine the impact on both consumers and industry of a radio switchover.

Sports: Females

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to increase women's participation in physical activity and sport *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency. [13821]

Hugh Robertson: Over the period 2009-12, Sport England plans to invest £480 million in the national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport to deliver increases in participation across different groups in society within their individual sports. In addition to this core funding, Sport England is investing in a £10 million Active Women initiative. This funding is aimed at helping women in disadvantaged communities and women caring for children under 16 to take part. Successful applicants will demonstrate the ability to increase participation for these two groups.

Sport England are committed to continuing to help NGBs deliver and to push them to do as much as possible to deliver for less well represented groups in sport. In the particular case of women and girls; funded and supported by Sport England, the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation is actively engaged with all of the NGBs, working in a consultancy capacity to advise the individual NGBs on best practice for increasing women's participation in sport.

The focus of Sport England funding is delivered through the national governing bodies of sport and as a result we do not break down our funding on a purely constituency basis. Investments have been made on the basis of each governing body's ability to increase the number of people playing and enjoying their sport, and to create development pathways for those with talent. Newcastle upon Tyne North, as well as other areas of the country will benefit directly from this investment.

DEFENCE

Animal Experiments

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how his Department ensures that the views of independent, external experts in ethics and animal welfare are considered under the local ethical review process within his Department's establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [11797]

Peter Luff: Before any research work involving animals is undertaken, it is essential to establish that the use of animals is justified ethically as well as scientifically. Consequently, an ethical review is mandatory under the terms of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 before the Home Office will grant a licence for research involving animals. The Home Office also recommends that the ethical review process should include lay members who are independent of the work.

To meet these requirements the DSTL ethical review process is conducted through meetings that are open to all members of DSTL staff working at the Porton Down site and has an independent chair. The meetings start with the licence holder presenting the work proposed and answering any questions. This is followed by a general discussion of the ethical issues, including the overall welfare of the animals, surrounding the work. The aim of the meeting is to arrive at a consensus as to whether it is reasonable ethically to carry out the work under discussion.

The Home Office independent Animal Procedures Committee (APC) is responsible for monitoring compliance with animal welfare regulations. The MOD is confident that through the Home Office Inspectorate and the APC, the issues of animal welfare will be seriously considered and compliance with all extant regulations ensured.

Dstl Porton Down operates in accordance with the principles of the three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) and has an active programme to increase the implementation of the three Rs by exploring the use of non-living models in order to reduce the requirement for animal experimentation.

Tissue and cell cultures, and physical or computer based modelling are used wherever it is possible and commensurate with good practice. However, where these alternatives are considered inadequate as a means of predicting human response, experiments on animals may be necessary.

Armed Forces

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team Report 2009. [12645]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Yes. I shall place in the Library of the House a copy of the most recently published report, covering 2009, compiled by the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training is provided on the provisions of the Geneva Conventions to personnel of each rank of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force deployed to an area of conflict; and if he will make a statement. [13254]

Nick Harvey: In addition to annual Law of Armed Conflict training, all Service personnel are required to complete mandatory pre-deployment training. An element of these training activities is specific to the rules of engagement for a given location and the requirements and responsibilities for compliance with the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols. Service personnel will not be deployed to an area of conflict without knowing how they may engage an enemy and what international laws their actions are subject to.

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian members of his Department are engaged in the Early Training Transformation project on a (i) full-time and (ii) part-time basis; and whether the costs of these personnel are being attributed to the programme. [13681]

Nick Harvey: The information is not readily available as it is not collected in the format requested. It is not possible to break down the figures into military and civilian, because no distinction is made in the data capture.

The number of personnel involved in the Early Training Transformation (ETT) process is estimated to be 108 staff, and their involvement varies from five to 60% of their working day for the duration of the course they are reviewing.

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he has taken in the Defence Training Review of lessons learnt from the private finance initiative project at the Defence Animal Centre. [13682]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence Private Finance Unit is responsible for the promulgation of specialist advice and guidance on private finance initiatives (PFI) across the Department. A key element of this support function is the ongoing identification of lessons learnt so that best practice is applied. Consequently the Defence Training Rationalisation Project continues to benefit from the very latest experience from PFI projects across Government, including that from the Defence Animal Centre project.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12727]

Peter Luff: Information on IT contracts abandoned in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Under the ongoing ICT Project Review, one planned Ministry of Defence ICT contract has already been halted: The Land Information Architecture Office (IAO) project which had a projected through life cost of £4,765,000. The ICT Project Review continues to review other existing MOD ICT contracts.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each region of England was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12488]

Mr Gerald Howarth: It is not possible to attribute Ministry of Defence expenditure on vehicles to English regions, as the information is not held centrally and to collate it would incur disproportionate cost. In England, Scotland and Wales, the MOD's fleet of administrative and other non-operational transport, commonly known as the White Fleet, is provided under a private finance initiative contract currently provided by Babcock Land (Whitefleet Management) Ltd. The combined expenditure in the last three financial years was:

£ million

Financial year	*Leased vehicles*	*Short term hires*	*Total (ex VAT)*
2007-08	64.67	37.36	102.03
2008-09	65.16	39.29	104.45
2009-10	69.06	38.50	107.56

These figures do not include hires through Government Procurement Cards, MOD Agencies, and non-departmental public bodies, as this falls outside the scope of the UK White Fleet contract. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Different commercial arrangements exist in Northern Ireland where the majority of White Fleet is purchased rather than leased. Expenditure in the last three Financial Years was:

Financial year	*Total (£ million) (ex VAT)*
2007-08	1.98
2008-09	2.94
2009-10	0.75

Information on leased vehicles in Northern Ireland is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

On current estimates, the forecast White Fleet expenditure for the current FY (2010-11) is expected to be similar to that for 2009-10. However, on current plans Project Phoenix is looking at how the MOD's White Fleet requirements could be provided in a more cohesive way in order to achieve value for money by, for example, including requirements for Northern Ireland and the mainland UK under one contract or making use of pan-government framework agreements. This work is unlikely to start before September 2011 and is dependent on the outcome of the SDSR.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13293]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is dedicated to developing its staff by providing training and development opportunities to help employees realise their full potential and support the achievement of business objectives.

External training costs are delegated to lower level budgets. As such, the information requested is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Trident

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he has taken of the US administration's recent decision on nuclear warhead production in his assessment of future UK warhead requirements; and if he will make a statement. [13656]

Nick Harvey: The UK's deterrent has always been, and remains, operationally independent of the US.

Under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement the UK and US communicate closely about nuclear matters and we have noted the recent US decision to cancel the Reliable Replacement Warhead programme. As yet no decisions have been taken on whether to refurbish or replace the UK's nuclear warhead.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the decision on the UK's future nuclear warheads is due to be taken during the present Parliament; and whether he plans to announce to Parliament the estimated cost of warhead *(a)* replacement and *(b)* refurbishment as part of the Trident value for money review. [13657]

Nick Harvey: The Trident value for money study is considering the future nuclear deterrent's programme timetable. No decisions have been taken on whether to refurbish or replace the UK's nuclear warhead. The 2006 White Paper 'Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm6994) set out the initial cost estimate of replacing or refurbishing the UK's nuclear warhead as £2-3 billion at 2006-07 prices. On current plans, we will be in a position to release more up-to-date cost estimates later this year after the project has passed Initial Gate approval point.

Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies take into account rolling resistance as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres. [13550]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's vehicles are fitted with tyres as recommended by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). Their recommendation results from their experience and exhaustive testing to ensure that vehicles meet with legislative and user requirements. The rolling resistance as a performance criterion is taken into account in some, but not all, instances by the OEM, as other vital criteria such as load carrying capacity, vehicle speed, terrain and/or climatic conditions, as well as whole-life cost and anticipated life, are equally, if not more, important.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Internet

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 248W on departmental internet, if he will publish *(a)* the options considered for translation of the content of the Your Freedom website into other languages and *(b)* the reason given for not proceeding with each option. [11259]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Three potential options were considered for translating the content of Your Freedom in to other languages. Firstly, re-architecting the current system, so that it can handle multiple languages. This would mean that users could view a translated version of the site that would mirror the current site but would not translate any user generated content. While this was the best option in terms of giving equal experience to English and other language speakers, because it would involve significant changes to an off-the-shelf-product, the costs were prohibitive at £120,000 (more than 37 times the cost of the original Your Freedom application).

Secondly, we looked at producing a static page to the existing site copy in other languages and a box into which comments/ideas could be entered. This would have ensured that ideas and comments of those submitting in other languages were gathered. However, the cost of this option was disproportionate at £1, 800 per language, or more than 50% the cost of the original application.

Thirdly, we considered incorporating a sentence of copy at the bottom of the home page text, linking people to a freely-available online translation tool. While cost-free, none of the tools available was judged to be sufficiently accurate.

Having considered options for translation of the content, it was decided that a better approach would be to enable users to submit ideas, which could then be translated before passing on to officials working on processing and evaluating contributions. At the moment, this option is only available to Welsh speakers. Translation is being provided by the Wales Office.

EDUCATION

Children: Day Care

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many childcare places there were *(a)* in each county in the East of England and *(b)* nationwide in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009; and how many such places there have been in each area in 2010 to date. [7048]

Sarah Teather: Information on the number of registered child care places available in England and in each local authority in the east of England Government office region for 2007 to 2010 is shown in the following table.

Table: Number[1] of registered child care places[2] for children under eight years of age, east of England Government office region, position at 31 March each year, 2007 to 2010

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England	1,551,100	1,549,100	1,346,100	1,309,900
East of England[3]	169,900	168,600	146,200	143,800
Bedford Borough[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,100
Bedfordshire[4]	13,100	13,400	10,500	n/a
Cambridgeshire	21,200	20,700	18,600	18,100
Central Bedfordshire[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,300
City of Peterborough	7,400	7,400	6,000	5,700
Essex	36,800	36,100	32,400	32,800
Hertfordshire	36,400	36,600	33,700	32,400
Luton	5,100	4,900	4,500	4,400
Norfolk	21,500	21,100	17,200	16,900
Southend-on-Sea	4,700	4,800	4,200	4,100
Suffolk	20,000	20,000	15,500	15,700
Thurrock	3,700	3,500	3,400	3,300

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Data Source: Ofsted—total includes child minders, child care on non-domestic premises, child care on domestic premises and home child carer.

[3] Total may not add up to sum of constituent parts due to rounding.

[4] Bedfordshire local authority split into Bedford borough and central Bedfordshire on 1 April 2009.

Class Sizes

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the teacher-to-pupil ratio was in each school in Bedford constituency in each of the last five years; and what the average teacher to pupil ratio was in England in each of those years. [11310]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the pupil-teacher ratio in each local authority maintained school in Bedford constituency and in England in each January from 2005 to 2009. The latest information available. School level figures for 2010 are expected to become available in August 2010.

Pupil:teacher ratios (PTR)[1],[2] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools[3]: Each January 2005-10[4]—Coverage: Bedford parliamentary constituency and England

		Pupil:teacher ratios					
LAEstab	*School name*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[4]*
	England overall PTR[5]	17.4	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.8	16.7
Nursery:							
6201000	Cherry Trees Nursery School	19.0	18.8	25.0	19.6	17.8	n/a
8201003	Southway Early Childhood Centre	32.9	15.0	26.0	25.2	18.5	n/a
8201009	Peter Pan Nursery School	17.0	18.1	17.0	18.0	18.6	n/a
	England nursery PTR	16.5	16.3	16.8	16.3	16.5	16.2
Primary:							
8202006	Livingstone Lower School	22.3	23.6	22.7	18.3	18.4	n/a
8202007	Edith Cavell Lower School	25.5	25.5	25.6	20.4	19.6	n/a
8202008	Goldington Green Lower School	24.5	23.3	22.1	20.8	22.5	n/a
8202009	Castle Lower School	27.1	28.0	25.0	24.1	23.3	n/a
8202013	Priory Lower School	19.3	18.3	17.4	18.3	22.5	n/a
8202014	Queen's Park Lower School	[6]	[6]	26.3	28.2	24.3	n/a
8202045	Elstow Lower School	23.3	23.4	32.4	23.4	22.9	n/a
8202061	Bedford Road Lower School	21.7	21.2	23.5	24.8	25.2	n/a
8202062	Camestone Lower School	23.1	23.0	24.4	25.5	25.7	n/a
8202064	Balliol Lower School	24.1	23.9	21.6	21.5	19.7	n/a
8202147	Putnoe Lower School	25.5	25.8	22.6	20.9	20.0	n/a
8202156	Stephenson Lower School	22.8	22.1	19.9	23.2	20.8	n/a
8202163	Brickhill Lower School	24.6	23.3	24.1	26.2	27.5	n/a
8202173	Hazeldene Lower School	29.1	26.5	21.2	24.4	23.3	n/a
8202178	The Hills Lower School	25.7	25.2	27.1	24.8	24.5	n/a
8202183	Scott Lower School	21.2	22.0	21.0	20.3	20.5	n/a
8202186	Springfield LowerSchool	24.6	21.9	22.1	21.2	25.7	n/a
8202211	Shackleton Lower School	19.9	18.3	25.6	20.1	20.9	n/a
8202294	Cauldwell Lower School	27.0	24.8	20.0	24.1	21.0	n/a
8203342	St Joseph's RC Lower School	29.1	27.0	28.8	26.9	24.5	n/a
6203350	St John Rigby RC VA Lower School	26.6	26.7	27.4	23.1	22.7	n/a
	England primary PTR	22.5	22.0	21.8	21.6	21.4	21.3

Pupil:teacher ratios (PTR)[1],[2] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools[3]: Each January 2005-10[4] — Coverage: Bedford parliamentary constituency and England

		Pupil:teacher ratios[5]					
LAEstab	*School name*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[4]*
Secondary:							
8204000	Goldinglon Middle School	19.6	19.9	19.6	19.4	20.4	n/a
8204047	Robert Bruce Middle School	23.0	20.9	18.7	20.1	17.7	n/a
8204050	Newnham Middle School	21.9	22.9	21.4	20.1	21.8	n/a
8204064	Hastingsbury Upper School and Community College	17.9	18.0	16.7	17.0	17.1	n/a
8204072	Westfield Middle School	19.1	17.2	20.5	18.7	17.4	n/a
8204081	John Bunyan Upper School	18.2	22.4	22.6	17.1	14.6	n/a
8204085	Mark Rutherford Upper School and Community College	14.6	16.3	17.7	17.4	15.2	n/a
8204098	Daubeney Middle School	18.7	19.1	20.9	18.2	19.8	n/a
8204118	Woodside Middle School	17.4	15.8	15.0	16.0	18.1	n/a
8204126	Beauchamp Middle School	18.7	17.8	20.7	17.9	20.7	n/a
8204127	Harrowden Middle School	25.0	23.4	20.7	28.2	25.1	n/a
8204605	St Thomas More Catholic School	18.1	17.6	17.6	18.2	17.5	n/a
8204607	St Bede's Catholic Middle School	21.1	19.3	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]
	England secondary PTR	16.7	16.6	16.5	16.1	15.9	15.7
Special:							
8207005	Grange School	8.4	9.6	8.6	8.3	8.2	n/a
8205951	St John's School	8.4	7.5	8.0	6.6	7.2	n/a
8207012	Ridgeway School	7.4	7.3	8.5	8.0	8.6	n/a
	England special PTR	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1

n/a = not available

[1] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE).

[2] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[3] There are no city technology colleges or academies in Bedford constituency.

[4] Provisional.

[5] The overall PTR is based on the total FTE number of pupils on roll in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and the FTE of all teachers in these schools (including: centrally employed; occasional teachers; those on employment based routes to QTS; others without GTS, those on paid absence and any replacements). The teacher numbers are from the 618g survey.

[6] Not applicable.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Public Expenditure

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to reduce its expenditure through the termination of *(a)* area-based and *(b)* other targeted grants. [11461]

Mr Gibb: Details of the reductions the Department of Education has made to the area based grant and other targeted grants to local authorities as a result of its contribution to the £6.2 billion worth of saving in 2010-11 are set out in the Secretary of State's letter of 16 June 2010 to directors of Children's Services. A copy of that letter is available at the following website.

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/~/media/Files/lacuna/news/LetterDCS16June2010v2.ashx.

The Secretary of State also wrote to directors of Children's Services on 14 July 2010 setting out details of the capital grants to local authorities that are being reduced in 2010-11. These reductions were as a result of the Treasury's announcement on 5 July 2010, that Departments had to address unrealistic inherited spending commitments for 2010-11, where funding was reliant on under spends through the end year flexibility system. A copy of that letter is available at the following website.

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/~/media/Files/lacuna/news/SoStoDCSs.ashx.

Details of the funding available for 2011-12 onwards will be discussed and agreed as part of the current spending review .

Drugs: Misuse

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects on young people of the illegal use of Ketamine. [7745]

Sarah Teather: The Government obtain expert medical advice to ensure that our information for young people is accurate and credible. The advice provided to health professionals and young people on Ketamine includes the information on the FRANK website, public health updates and advice provided in leaflets. These are reviewed and approved by the Department of Health.

Ketamine was made a Class C controlled substance in 2006 following a report and recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). Substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act are kept under review.

Among 11 to 15-year-olds, 0.6% report having used Ketamine in the last year. This is compared to 1.7% of 16 to 24-year-olds.

Extracurricular Activities

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on the provision of *(a)* homework clubs, *(b)* breakfast clubs, *(c)* after school activities and *(d)* school music of reductions in the levels of area-based grants. [4757]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities should be able to achieve the necessary savings through efficiencies across their budgets rather than cuts to frontline services. The Area Based Grant is a form of funding where the Department makes specific allocations to local authorities, but where local authorities have flexibility about how they spend it.

The ring-fenced Music Grant in the Standards Fund is not part of the Area Based Grant, and is not affected by the wider decision to remove ring-fencing from funds that go to local authorities. The Area Based Grant includes start up funding for extended services through schools—which can include homework clubs, breakfast clubs, and after school activities. The start-up funding is intended to support the co-ordination and advice provided by local authorities that has enabled schools to develop access to extended services. In practice 98% of schools are now providing access to these services, and so there is less need for the start-up funding.

Financial Services: Education

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the merits of including in the national curriculum *(a)* practical financial management and *(b)* awareness of marketing. [12612]

Mr Gibb: The Government announced on 7 June our intention to make changes to the National Curriculum. We intend to restore the National Curriculum to its original purpose—a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. We plan to consult a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that the core curriculum can compare with those of the highest performing countries in the world. Further details will be announced in due course.

Free School Meals

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of pupils in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough who would have been eligible for a free school meal under the proposal in the Pre-Budget Report 2009 to extend the eligibility criteria. [12531]

Mr Gibb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1215W.

GCSE: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils entered for GCSEs by each school in the Peterborough Local Education Authority area obtained no GCSEs at grades A* to C in each of the last five years. [11190]

Mr Gibb: The proportions of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, entering the equivalent of at least one full GCSE, that did not pass the equivalent of one GCSE at grade A*-C are presented in the following table.

Percentage

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
John Mansfield School	36.4	25.2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Walton Community School	27.6	22.3	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Hereward Community College	18.2	28.1	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Bretton Woods Community School	42.3	28.9	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Bushfield Community College	34.5	32.0	27.1	25.0	26.5
Ken Stimpson Community School	25.0	30.8	20.6	19.9	17.3
Hampton College	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	3.2
The Voyager School	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	36.5	33.1
The King's School	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.8
Jack Hunt School	14.8	17.4	20.4	13.3	17.3
Deacon's School	1.9	1.2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Stanground College	32.1	21.4	19.4	17.4	6.8
St John Fisher Catholic High School	31.0	21.0	26.1	28.3	17.1
Orton Longueville School	25.5	21.1	23.1	24.0	22.7
Arthur Mellows Village College	10.5	6.9	7.0	1.3	0.4
Peterborough High School	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Thomas Deacon Academy	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	2.7	4.2
Ormiston Bushfield Academy	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Marshfields School	100.0	90.9	87.0	84.0	76.9
Heltwate School	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
The Causeway School	[2]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
The Phoenix School	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] School is not published as part of the Achievement and Attainment Tables.

[2] School has fewer than 11 pupils that entered the equivalent of at least one GCSE so data has been suppressed to guard against individual identification.

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables data

Headteachers

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department provides on measures to retain experienced head teachers. [9970]

Mr Gibb: We are making headship more attractive by reducing red tape, giving head teachers more autonomy to run schools and empowering head teachers to maintain discipline.

The age profile indicates that the number of head teachers retiring will increase in the near future. In 2008 59%[1] of head teachers in the maintained sector were aged 50 and over compared to 50% in 2000.

In the light of this we need both to retain experienced head teachers and ensure that we have a sufficient supply of good quality school leaders for the future.

To secure this we support:

(i) roles such as the National Leaders of Education which provide opportunities for the best and most experienced heads to take on new roles to bring about system wide improvement.

(ii) reforms made to the Teachers' Pension Scheme which have given heads more flexibility to phase their retirement.

[1] Database of Teachers Records (data for 2007 and 2008 are provisional)

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether all funding from his Department to assist children from more deprived backgrounds will be routed through the pupil premium. [11462]

Mr Gibb: The current school funding system already includes funding to assist pupils from deprived backgrounds. The targeting of that funding is, however, flawed and insufficiently transparent. We intend to introduce a pupil premium for disadvantaged pupils. On 26 July 2010, the Secretary of State for Education, announced in a written ministerial statement, the launch of a consultation on the introduction of the premium. In that consultation, we have said that for 2011-12 we intend to continue with the current methodology for the distribution of school funding to allow for a clear and transparent introduction of the pupil premium. We also recognise, however, that the funding system should more accurately reflect pupil characteristics and so we intend to review the system for funding schools beyond 2011-12.

Schools: Databases

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many open maintained primary and secondary schools in England were on the edubase database on 25 May 2010. [10602]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* The information requested is as follows.

Schools in England

	Local authority maintained	*Academies*
Primary	17,023	—
Secondary	3,135	—
Total	20,158	203

Notes:

1. The figures represented in this table do not include Special Schools.
2. The table includes Academies because this type of establishment receives state funding from the Government.

Source:

EduBase2

Schools: Science

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to assist school science departments to work together with high technology employers in their areas. [11812]

Mr Gibb: I refer my hon. Friend to the response given to my hon. Friend the Member for Morecambe and Lunesdale (David Morris) on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 773W.

Schools: Special Educational Needs

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many statutory assessments for a statement of special educational needs were undertaken in each local education authority in England in 2009; and how many resulted in a child being statemented. [10460]

Sarah Teather: Information on the number of children assessed for special educational needs and the number of children for whom statements were made for the first time during the calendar year is published in the Statistical First Release, "Special Educational Needs in England, January 2010":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

table 20.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to reduce the time between receipt and acknowledgement of applications made under the boiler scrappage scheme; what steps he plans to take to reduce the time taken between application and issuing payments under the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [14430]

Gregory Barker: Applications to the Boiler Scrappage scheme closed on 26 March 2010. An automated response was produced to acknowledge applications.

The number of valid vouchers yet to be claimed is 24. There are fewer than 200 claims, or less than 0.2%, which have yet to be paid. These are mainly outstanding claims where we have requested additional information before we will be able to make the payment. The Energy Saving Trust who deliver the scheme are acting within advertised service standards to pay monies on receipt of a valid claim within five weeks. Their guidance notes that in some cases it will take a little longer for the payments to go through and appear on bank statements.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13316]

Gregory Barker: The percentage of invoices paid by the Department within 10 days of receipt in July 2010 was 99.1% and 99.0% in August 2010.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each year. [13318]

Gregory Barker: Departmental policy is that the driver of the vehicle is responsible for following all advice, guidance and legislation in relation to road safety and is therefore also responsible for meeting the cost of any fines incurred (including parking fines), as a result of any driving offence. The Department will not meet those costs.

Fuel Poverty

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to ensure that fuel regulators have adequate powers to reduce the level of fuel poverty. [13624]

Gregory Barker: It is for Government to decide the strategy for tackling fuel poverty, and setting the framework for this to happen. Where Ofgem, as the independent regulator, has a role it is in using its monitoring and enforcement powers to ensure licensed energy companies comply with this framework.

Under the Gas and Electricity Acts, Ofgem and the Secretary of State are required to have regard to the interests of certain groups of vulnerable consumers when carrying out their functions.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 29 July on the construction of a combined heat and power generation facility in that constituency. [13881]

Gregory Barker: The matter raised in the letter is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government. The letter was transferred to and accepted by that Department on 17 August for reply.

Nuclear Power

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the proportion of new electricity generating capacity which should be met by new nuclear power capacity. [13963]

Charles Hendry: The UK needs a mix of all types of new electricity generating capacity, including new nuclear, in order to achieve energy security at the same time as dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

It is for industry to propose the specific type of energy developments that they assess to be viable within the strategic framework established by Government. This is the nature of a market-led energy system and therefore the Government do not propose to set targets or limits on the amount of new nuclear power. Instead, it is Government policy that new nuclear power should be able to contribute as much as possible to the UK's need for new non-renewable electricity generation capacity.

Offshore Industry: Regulation

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to publish the rapid review of the implications of the Deepwater Horizon incident for his Department's offshore regulatory regime; when he plans to undertake a more comprehensive review of the matter; and if he will make a statement. [13978]

Charles Hendry: Following the Gulf of Mexico incident, and on the basis of the information available at that time, senior management in DECC conducted a rapid review of the implications for DECC's offshore regulatory regime.

The recommendations made to me in the light of this initial review have already been acted upon. This was only the first stage in the review process and as such I do not intend publishing any material. However, as stated in the Annual Energy Statement, a further review will be carried out as soon as the more precise and detailed findings from the Gulf of Mexico investigations have been released (currently anticipated early 2011). This will enable us to determine what more, if anything, needs to be done to reinforce further our regulatory approach and keep our safety regime as one of the most robust in the world. The findings from this review will be published.

Renewables Obligation

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the Renewables Obligation scheme; and if he will make a statement. [13619]

Charles Hendry: The coalition agreement makes clear our commitment to maintaining a banded Renewables Obligation, and not changing the ground rules for existing investments. We are also committed to implementing a full feed-in-tariff, with the aim of securing a significant increase in investment in renewables so that we can meet both the legally binding renewable energy target in 2020, and our longer term decarbonisation objectives.

We are still working through the details of such a feed-in-tariff, any changes made to the support mechanism will be considered in light of wider electricity market reform.

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the timescale is for his Department's review of the Renewables Obligation scheme banding levels. [13622]

Gregory Barker: A banding review is scheduled to begin in October 2010 with changes to be introduced on 1 April 2013.

Torness Power Station

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will visit Torness Nuclear Power Station to discuss the role of nuclear power in contributing to security of energy supplies. [13630]

Charles Hendry: In my role as Energy Minister, it is my intention to visit a range of power stations, including nuclear power stations. I would be pleased to visit Torness nuclear power station at some point in the future.

Warm Front Scheme

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has had on the Warm Front grant scheme; and if he will make a statement. [13361]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers keep in regular contact with key stakeholders that have an interest in the Warm Front scheme.

Funding for the scheme is just over £1.1 billion for the current three-year spending period to March 2011. This includes a cash provision of £345 million for 2010-11. Funding for future years will be considered as part of the budget and spending review processes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Boilers: Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 455W, on boilers: biofuels, if she will take steps to establish a full emissions profile for the use of B30K fuel in domestic boilers, including the emission of all air quality pollutants contained in her Department's air quality strategy. [13875]

Richard Benyon: The Department has no plans to establish a full emission profile for B30K.

Departmental Official Engagements

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what Ministerial commitments she has on 8 September 2010. [13628]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State will be holding meetings with Departmental officials and representatives from the water industry on 8 September.

Departmental Sponsorship

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what costs her Department incurred in connection with its sponsorship of the Environmental Innovation in Waste Collection Achievement of the Year award at the Municipal Journal Awards 2010 in respect of *(a)* sponsoring the award, *(b)* publicity in connection with sponsoring the award and *(c)* travel, accommodation and subsistence for the cost of Ministers, staff or guests of her Department attending the award. [13649]

Richard Benyon: The Environmental Innovation In Waste Collection Achievement of the Year award was a commitment of the previous Government and was jointly sponsored with the Department for Communities and Local Government. The only charge to the Department was £11,750 including VAT which was paid to sponsor the award. The Department incurred no costs in relation to publicity, travel, accommodation or subsistence for Ministers, staff or guests.

Making Space for Nature Review

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the report of Sir John Lawton's review of wildlife sites and ecological networks in England. [14322]

Richard Benyon: The independent review into England's network of wildlife sites 'Making Space for Nature' chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton is due to report later in September. I will arrange for a copy of the report to be placed in the Library.

Natural England: Planning

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Natural England has spent on external legal advice on planning issues in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [13652]

Richard Benyon: The figures provided in the following table represent the amount Natural England has paid for legal advice and representation in major casework (including, but not limited to, the provision of solicitors and legal counsel) plus other technical advice on interpretation of Government planning and other policy.

Natural England commenced operations on 1 October 2006 and therefore comparative full year data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 cannot be provided.

Legal and planning advice

	£
2007-08	470,889
2008-09	393,828
2009-10	289,228

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Indian Ocean Territory: Fisheries

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress he has made in renegotiating the contract with the Marine Resources Assessment Group for management of fisheries in the Chagos Island. [13443]

Mr Bellingham: The current contract between the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Administration and MRAG Ltd for the provision of management of the British Indian Ocean Territory Fisheries Regime will expire on 31 May 2011.

The BIOT Administration is considering requirements for any new contract which will be put out to tender.

British Overseas Territories: Environment Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the future funding of the Overseas Territories Environment programme. [14144]

Mr Bellingham: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced in his statement to the House on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 37WS, we will sustain in future years (resources permitting) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s programme spending in support of the Overseas Territories. The FCO's contribution to the joint FCO-Department for International Development Overseas Territories Environment programme is currently funded from the Overseas Territories Programme Fund. Further decisions will be taken once the outcome of the spending review is clear.

Burma: Human Rights

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had *(a)* in international fora and *(b)* with the Burmese regime on the rights of the Rohingya people in Burma. [13381]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK is deeply concerned at the continuing ethnic, religious and political persecution endured by the Rohingya ethnic group in Burma. They are victims of widespread human rights violations including denial of citizenship, economic deprivation and restrictions on freedom of movement. I discussed the situation faced by ethnic groups, including the Rohingya, at an EU/ASEAN meeting on 26 May, at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was also present. At the end of July I travelled to south-east Asia and raised our concerns about ethnic minorities in Burma with representatives from the Thai, Philippine and Indonesian governments. We also plan to raise the issue in the forthcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council. Our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises his concern at the discrimination and treatment of ethnic minorities with the Burmese regime and will continue to do so.

Burma: Prisoners

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Burmese military leadership on freeing *(a)* Aung San Suu Kyi and *(b)* other political prisoners. [13411]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Aung San Suu Kyi and over 2,100 other political prisoners continue to be unjustly detained. Many prisoners are held in harsh conditions in remote locations far from their families. I raised Burma at the EU-ASEAN meeting on 26 May, at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was present. I made clear that the continued detention of political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi was unacceptable. Our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises the need for the release of all political prisoners with Ministers in the Burmese military Government and will continue to do so.

Colombia: Human Rights

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Colombia on human rights in that country. [13623]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I represented the UK at the inauguration of President Juan Manuel Santos in August. I took the opportunity of a private meeting with the President and several of his Ministers on 9 August to urge more progress on human rights. I was encouraged by the President's commitment to make human rights a "non-issue" in Colombia. We welcome this renewed commitment and we will work with his administration towards this common end.

During his visit to the UK as President-elect in July, Juan Manuel Santos stressed to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister his strong commitment to improving the human rights situation in Colombia.

The human rights situation in Colombia is of significant concern. High levels of poverty and inequality, and the continued internal conflict fuelled by the cocaine trade, continue to undermine respect for human rights. Human rights defenders, including civil society activists, lawyers, trade unionists, journalists and religious leaders continue to suffer frequent violence and intimidation. We receive regular reports about human rights abuses committed by state security forces, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), illegal armed groups and criminal gangs. The high level of impunity exacerbates the problem.

We will continue to regularly raise these concerns with senior Colombian Ministers, and continue to work with unions and employer organisations to strengthen labour relations in Colombia. We are also working with the UN on a research initiative to help improve trade union human rights protection and the development of positive labour relations. With the EU and other partners, we will continue to encourage a stronger relationship between the Colombian Government and civil society.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to promote inter-religious dialogue and co-operation in Indonesia. [13393]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We, along with our EU partners, raise human rights concerns with the Indonesian Government and have pressed the authorities to ensure the rights of all religious minorities. We will continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia.

At the UK's request, freedom of religion was included as a substantive item on the agenda of the first EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue held in June 2010. The EU noted Indonesia's efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue and raised concerns over treatment of the Ahmadiyya community and recent attacks on Christians.

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on *(a)* attacks on churches in Indonesia, *(b)* restrictions on the construction of churches in that country and *(c)* the revocation of licences for some existing churches. [14118]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware, through media and diplomatic reporting, of some incidents of churches being attacked, construction restrictions and licences being revoked. No representations have been made to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

At the UK's request, freedom of religion was included as a substantive item on the agenda of the first EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue held in June 2010. We, along with our EU partners, continue to raise human rights concerns with the Indonesian Government and have pressed the authorities to ensure the rights of all religious minorities. We will continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia.

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on *(a)* the effect on the demographics of Papua of migration from other parts of Indonesia and *(b)* the effect of such migration on levels of religious harmony and freedom in Papua. [14119]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have received no independent reports on this issue.

Mexico: Climate Change

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to work with the Government of Mexico on tackling climate change. [11564]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have prioritised working with Mexico on climate change. Our embassy in Mexico has an established team working on a wide range of political and practical co-operation, including projects to build domestic capacity in Mexico and promote opportunities for bilateral trade in low carbon sectors. Both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I, and Ministers at the Department for Energy and Climate Change have discussed the climate change agenda with our Mexican opposite numbers. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Henry Bellingham), has also met with the Mexican Ambassador to the UK to discuss Climate Change. Further ministerial contact is planned in the months ahead.

Mexico will host the next meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—commonly referred to as the Conference of the Parties—COP 16 in Cancun in November this year. The UK and Mexico are fully supportive of ambitious global action to tackle climate change at the summit—and the UK is supporting Mexican preparations for Cancun both through support to the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through our diplomatic efforts to raise ambitions for a global deal.

Turkey: Human Rights

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of Kurdish children *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* imprisoned in Turkey under that country's counter-terrorism legislation in the last 12 months. [13868]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government have not received figures reporting on the number of Kurdish children prosecuted and imprisoned under Turkish anti-terror legislation. In July, the Turkish Parliament passed an amendment to the anti-terror law which gives children greater protection in the judicial system.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether officials of his Department observed the recent trial of Ismail Besikci, Zeycan Balci Simsek and Selcuck Kozagacli in Turkey. [13870]

Mr Lidington: There were no UK or EU observers present at the trial of Ismail Besikci, Zeycan Balci Simsek and Selcuck Kozagacli.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Prime Minister has received from *(a)* the government of Turkey and *(b)* Turkish citizens resident in the UK in respect of the treatment in that country of Kurds not involved in PKK violent actions. [13871]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no representations from the Government of Turkey in respect of the treatment of Kurds in Turkey. However, the British Government regularly discusses this issue with the Turkish Government in the context of Turkey's EU accession negotiations. Turkish citizens resident in the UK sometimes write to their MPs to voice their various concerns, but we have no record of receiving correspondence specifically relating to this issue.

HEALTH

Antibiotics

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the NDM-1 enzyme on public health; and what steps he is taking to reduce those effects. [13854]

Anne Milton: So far 60 patients with bacteria producing the New Delhi metallo-6-lactamase (NDM) enzyme have been identified in the United Kingdom by the Health Protection Agency. Bacteria with the NDM enzyme do not appear to be a major immediate threat to public health but are a concern because they are resistant to nearly all antibiotics, including the carbapenems, which are commonly used against infections due to multi-resistant bacteria.

As resistant bacteria with NDM and other similarly-broad resistances can spread rapidly and compromise hospital care, guidance highlighting the importance of early identification and reporting of cases and the need for increased awareness and infection control was issued in January and July 2009. The Health Protection Agency and our advisory committee ARHAI (Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection) are keeping the situation under close review and will advise of any further action as necessary.

Blood: Contamination

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of screening processes for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in blood and blood products; and if he will make a statement. [13757]

Anne Milton: At present, there are no validated blood screening tests for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease on the market. The Department, together with the UK blood services, continues to monitor scientific research and development in this area.

The Department is aware of other companies and academic institutions which are attempting to develop tests. A process, which involves the UK Blood Services and the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), has been established to review test development and advise Health Departments. Unfortunately, the development of a test with appropriate sensitivity and specificity is proving technically difficult.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons there is a difference in the level of payments for haemophiliac patients infected with HIV by contaminated blood or blood products and those infected with hepatitis C; and if he will make a statement. [13759]

Anne Milton: The difference between the ex gratia payment schemes for HIV and hepatitis C reflect the different times when they were set up. When the MacFarlane and Eileen Trusts, which make payments to individuals infected with HIV by contaminated NHS blood and blood products, were established, there was no effective antiretroviral drug treatment for HIV to prevent progression to AIDS, and life expectancy was short. When the Skipton Fund, which makes ex gratia payments to people infected with hepatitis C from NHS treatment with blood, blood products or tissue, was set up in 2004, there were already the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommended drug treatments for hepatitis C available.

Nevertheless we are currently looking at the needs and wishes of those who have been infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C by NHS supplied contaminated blood and blood products. I have recently held a series of meetings with the Chairs of the MacFarlane and Eileen Trusts and the Skipton Fund, as well as representatives of the campaign groups and other affected individuals, to gather information and evidence. We intend to report the outcome of this work by the end of this year.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of the provisions of the Contaminated Blood (Support for Infected and Bereaved Persons) Bill [Lords]. [13761]

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the report of the Archer Inquiry on contaminated blood and blood products which were accepted; [13626]

(2) what timescale he has set for the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Archer Inquiry on contaminated blood and blood products which were accepted. [13627]

Anne Milton: Lord Archer's report was published in February 2009. A number of the recommendations were either already in place in one form or another, or have since been implemented. The Contaminated Blood (Support for Infected and Bereaved Persons) Bill, which has been introduced into the House of Lords, largely replicates the recommendations of Lord Archer's report. The Government therefore do not believe that legislation is necessary.

We are currently looking at the needs and wishes of those who have been infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C by NHS supplied contaminated blood and blood products. I have recently held a series of meetings with the Chairs of the MacFarlane and Eileen Trusts and the Skipton Fund, as well as representatives of campaign groups and other affected individuals, to gather information and evidence. We intend to report the outcome of this work by the end of this year.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of levels of payment made to those affected by contaminated blood and blood products. [14092]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of introducing annual payments for haemophiliac patients who contracted hepatitis C from contaminated blood or blood products similar to those for patients who contracted HIV. [13760]

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 516W, on blood: contamination, when he expects to decide on his policy on equalising the level of payments made by the Skipton Fund and the MacFarlane Trust for people infected by contaminated blood and blood products. [13531]

Anne Milton: We are currently looking at the needs and wishes of those who have been infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C by NHS supplied contaminated blood and blood products. I have recently held a series of meetings with the chairs of the MacFarlane and Eileen Trusts and the Skipton Fund, as well as representatives of the campaign groups and other affected individuals, to gather information and evidence. We intend to report the outcome of this work by the end of this year.

Continuing Care

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the criteria set for continuous health care; and if he will make a statement. [12897]

Mr Burstow: The eligibility criteria for continuing healthcare, published in National Framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care July 2009, were revised following a review process where issues were raised by health and social care professionals, key stakeholders and members of the public.

The Department continues to receive correspondence on the eligibility criteria for continuing healthcare from Members of Parliament, members of the public and their legal representatives.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [12458]

Mr Simon Burns: The expenditure on external consultants and advisers by the Department is shown in the following table:

£000

Organisation	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Department of Health	133,000	205,000	132,000	121,300	[1]—

[1] Figure awaiting publication

Note:

The figure for 2009-10 is currently being validated and will be released in due course.

The expenditure on external consultants and advisers by each of the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies and its executive agency is shown in the following table:

£000

Organisation	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	978	573	519	693	501
General Social Care Council	202	107	23	76	45
Monitor	8,584	5,141	2,497	2,873	2,989
Appointments Commission	57	0	85	108	62
Alcohol Education and Research Council	0	0	0	0	28
Care Quality Commission	—	—	—	—	9,068
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	261	388	816	1354	360
Health Protection Agency	194	168	197	420	189
Human Tissue Authority	18	111	305	305	312
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (Executive Agency)	2,135	1,125	801	1,178	340

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13311]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not held centrally about which and how many external training courses were attended by staff in the Department. Decisions on external training courses for staff are made locally, by directorates. To collect such information would incur disproportionate cost.

Doctors: Training

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the quality of training for doctors. [13199]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of medical training is the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC), which is the competent authority for medical training in the United Kingdom. Its role is that of custodian of quality standards in medical education and practice.

Since the publication of the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", the Department has been working to develop a new system to deliver education and training based on the principle that it should be driven by healthcare provider decisions and underpinned by strong clinical leadership. A public consultation is planned for later this year.

Health Inequalities Unit: Awards

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs the Health Inequalities Unit incurred in connection with its sponsorship of the Reducing Health Inequalities Achievement of the Year award at the Municipal Journal Awards 2010 in respect of *(a)* sponsoring the award, *(b)* publicity in connection with sponsoring the award and *(c)* travel, accommodation and subsistence payments to Ministers of his Department or staff or guests of the Health Inequalities Unit of his Department attending the award. [13650]

Anne Milton: The Municipal Journal Reducing Health Inequalities Achievement of the Year Award 2010 was sponsored by the Department under the previous Government.

The cost of sponsoring the award was £19,995 excluding VAT, which was paid to the Hemming Group Ltd. The Department's Health Inequalities Unit incurred no travel, accommodation or subsistence costs for Ministers, staff or guests. The award will not be sponsored in 2011.

Health Professions: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on ringfencing of funding for multi-professional education and training. [13785]

Anne Milton: The multi-professional education and training budget is allocated to strategic health authorities to fund investment in the training and development of the health care work force, including costs of clinical placements, tuition fees and student support. The funding is not ring fenced although the Department has an annual service level agreement with each strategic health authority that sets out the outcomes expected from the investment.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(b)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England on proposals to transfer funding for multi-professional education and training to the Higher Education Funding Council for England; [13786]

(2) what criteria will apply to determine the amount of multi-professional education and training funding to be transferred from each strategic health authority (SHA) to successor bodies when SHAs are abolished; [13879]

(3) which organisations will have responsibility for multi-professional education and training funding following the abolition of strategic health authorities. [13880]

Anne Milton: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out the principles for the future arrangements for education and training. The Department will publish proposals for consultation later this year. This will include proposals on the future management of multi-professional education and training funding. In developing these proposals, the Department has held exploratory discussions with a number of organisations including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The purpose of this discussion was to understand how other areas of higher education are funded to inform the development of proposals.

Health: Disadvantaged

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve the health of residents in the most deprived areas. [14062]

Anne Milton: We expect to publish a White Paper on public health later this year. This will outline the Government's plans for establishing the new public health service, and it will also map a cross-Government strategy on public health that will be taken forward in the future.

The Government have made it clear that tackling health inequalities is a priority. Improving equity and fairness is a theme of this Government. Everyone should have the same opportunities to lead a healthy life, no matter where they live or who they are.

The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, announced the establishment of an independent and accountable National Health Service Commissioning Board. The board will have an explicit duty to tackle inequalities in health care access and outcomes.

This White Paper also announced plans for the new public health service that will have an important role in reducing inequalities in health. The public health budget will be ring-fenced and allocated to reflect relative population health outcomes, with a new "health premium" to promote action to reduce health inequalities. We will therefore create a service that both recognises the impact of deprivation and rewards improvement, providing further incentives to reduce inequalities in health.

Health: Information

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution he expects information prescriptions to make to the healthcare information revolution. [12766]

Mr Burstow: The Department is committed to ensuring that patients have the information they need to make choices and to take greater control of making decisions about their care and well-being.

Information prescriptions are an important contribution to this, providing a mechanism for patients to access the information they need, when they need it most. Information prescriptions contain information and signposts to further sources of advice and support, such as local patient groups and self-management programmes, access to benefits and social care services. The contents of an information prescription are tailored to each patient's individual needs, through discussions with health and social care professionals.

The Information Prescriptions Service

www.nhs.uk/ips

has recently been launched to give health and care professionals easy access to NHS information alongside quality-assured information from Britain's leading charities.

We will publish details of further developments in our information strategy in the autumn.

Mental Health Services

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of psychological therapies by each primary care trust in each year from 2000 to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [13246]

Mr Burstow: Psychological therapy services are organised at a local level and commissioners in primary care trusts (PCTs) determine their provision. They have a duty to consider the level of local need, through joint strategic needs assessments and commission services to meet this need.

We do not hold information centrally about the level and nature of provision of psychological therapies in the national health service for the period 2000-10. We do, however, have information about the provision of services to treat mild to moderate anxiety and depression, as organised under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme since 2006. The programme aims to improve access to evidence based talking therapies in the NHS through an expansion of the psychological therapy workforce and service.

Some 114 PCTs across England, providing access to around 60%, of the population in England, have already established IAPT services and more than 2,500 therapists have already joined (and completed) the IAPT training programme.

Services are designed to meet local need and to date:

932,283 people have been referred to psychological therapy services;

324,550 people have entered IAPT services;

177,786 people have completed treatment;

57,255 people have moved to recovery; and

8,363 people have moved off sick pay and benefits.

Mental Health Services: Older People

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants specialising in old age psychiatry there are in each primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [13251]

Mr Burstow: The requested information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the letter issued on 13 July 2010 by the NHS chief executive, what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure in each cost category on the proposed reorganisation of the NHS. [13865]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. These changes were described in the letter of the NHS chief executive on 13 July 2010. The precise costs of the transition to the new system will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

A number of consultations on how the new organisations should be designed are being published, and once the results of these are known we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

NHS: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated for multi-professional education and training to each strategic health authority in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [13878]

Anne Milton: The Multi Professional Education and Training (MPET) budget allocations to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

MPET budget allocated to SHAs

		£000
	2009-10	*2010-11*
NHS North East	253,184	259,613
NHS North West	663,787	688,434
NHS Yorkshire and the Humber	487,592	498,824
NHS East Midlands	359,159	371,517
NHS West Midlands	481,489	493,815
NHS East of England	362,862	375,139
NHS London	1,084,937	1,112,755
NHS South East Coast	260,108	271,104
NHS South Central	308,271	314,111
NHS South west	385,075	396,493
England total	4,646,463	4,781,806

No budget has yet been calculated or allocated for 2011-12.

Nutrition

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name of each organisation that took part in the Healthy Food Marks pilots is. [13866]

Anne Milton: 78 public sector organisations took part in two pilot phases (October to December 2009 and February to July 2010) for the Healthier Food Mark project. The names of these organisations are available on the Healthier Food Mark website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114781

School Milk

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Healthy Start scheme. [13614]

Anne Milton: A rapid evaluation of the scheme's early impact in Devon and Cornwall was carried out in early 2006 and informed the scheme's national roll out in November of that year.

The Department has recently commissioned an assessment of the scheme's nutritional impact through the Diet and Nutrition Survey of Infants and Young Children which focuses on measuring the nutritional status of children aged 4-18 months. Sampling work will begin this year and results are expected to be completed by autumn 2012.

Two further research projects on the broader impact of Healthy Start have been commissioned from the university of Bristol and the university of York. These will explore in particular how vouchers are used and the time scale, though still under discussion, is expected to be expected to completed by autumn 2012.

Self-harm: Health Services

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will bring forward proposals to increase provision of services for people who *(a)* repeatedly self-harm and *(b)* self-harm and are diagnosed with a personality disorder; and if he will make a statement; [13247]

(2) if he will commission research into the provision of a dedicated self-harm service as part of the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [13248]

(3) what his latest estimate is of the incidence of self-harm among older people; and if he will commission research on the reasons for such self-harm; [13249]

(4) what steps he is taking to reduce the number of older people who *(a)* attempt and *(b)* commit suicide; [13250]

(5) if he will take steps to improve NHS treatment of depression in older people; and if he will make a statement. [13253]

Mr Burstow: Suicide, attempted suicide and intentional self-harm are almost always symptoms of a complex mix of problems like mental illness, personality disorder, social exclusion and poverty. Reducing them is a priority. Equally, we recognise that more needs to be done to reduce the inequality currently experienced by many older people trying to access mental health services and receiving care. We have recently announced that, in the months ahead, we will reshape mental health strategy. The issues of self-harm, suicide and of eliminating discrimination in services for older people experiencing mental health problems will be considered as part of that strategy.

Smoking

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to create an offence of smoking in cars where children are present. [13625]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to extend the smokefree law to private vehicles. Many families are now voluntarily making their homes and cars smokefree, reducing their children's exposure to second-hand smoke. We will continue to urge parents to do this in encouraging them to take responsibility for their children's health. The Public Health White Paper due later this year will set out our priorities for action in this and other areas of tobacco control.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the display of tobacco products in retail premises. [14432]

Anne Milton: The Government are developing options around the display of tobacco in shops.

Tuberculosis: Children

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed with tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [13518]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Tuberculosis case reports in children aged 16 or under, England, 2004-09[1]

	Age group (years)		
	Under 5	5 to 16	Total
2004	146	366	512
2005	153	376	529
2006	116	391	507
2007	156	431	587
2008	167	416	583
2009	148	362	510

[1] Data for 2004 to 2008 as at September 2009. Data for 2009 are provisional as at February 2010.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions removals by the UK Border Agency have been abandoned or postponed because the deportee has required medical treatment in each of the last two years. [13221]

Damian Green: When a UKBA removal is abandoned or postponed, this is called a failed removal.

UKBA attribute failed removals into certain categories. There is no specific category for 'deportee requiring medical treatment'. However we do record the following categories:

Medical reps received

Subject deemed medically unfit by carrier

Subject medically unfit to fly

The latest full two years worth of data available are for 2008-09 and 2009-10. Over these two years, 602 removals failed due to one of the above three reasons. It should be noted that these are instances of failed removals i.e. the same individual could potentially fail to be removed on medical grounds on multiple occasions.

It should be noted that when a removal has failed every effort is made to ensure their successful removal at a later date.

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Asylum: Gloucestershire

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of provision of asylum seeker *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* support services in Gloucestershire was in each of the last five years. [13407]

Damian Green: The Annex to this reply provides estimated costs for accommodation and for subsistence payments in Gloucestershire for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10. The information is not available to provide similar figures for 2005-06.

Annex

Table 1: Estimated cost of accommodating asylum-seekers in Gloucestershire

Financial year	Estimated cost (£000)
2006-07	669
2007-08	824
2008-09	774
2009-10	789

Note:

We are unable to provide similar information for 2005-06 as accommodation provision in that year was on a different basis. Such records as are available do not provide a suitable basis for analysis by county for 2005-06.

Table 2: Subsistence payments to asylum-seekers in Gloucestershire

£000

Financial year	S95 costs	S4 costs	Total
2006-07	251	29	280
2007-08	271	51	322
2008-09	214	69	283
2009-10	219	78	297

Notes:

1. These figures are based on average accommodation costs and average numbers of applicants accommodated. They should therefore be treated as approximations.
2. We do not have the information available to provide similar information for 2005-06.

Table 3: Payments to Gloucestershire authorities for UASCs

£

Financial year	Gloucestershire C.C.	South Gloucestershire	Total
2006-07	184,892	0	184,892
2007-08	438,703	9,957	448,660
2008-09	381,988	81,970	463,958
2009-10	1,124,359	78,209	1,202,568

Note:

These figures are for payments made in each financial year rather than for liabilities incurred in those years. We do not have information available to provide similar figures for 2005-06.

Borders: Personal Records

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid to Deloitte Consulting for work on the eBorders programme since September 2005; whether further payments remain to be made; how much her Department has paid to Raytheon for work on the eBorders programme since

November 2007; and what *(a)* incentives and *(b)* performance indicators were used to measure Deloitte's performance. [12877]

Damian Green: Since September 2005 the e-Borders programme has paid Deloitte Consulting £37.3 million; there is an amount of £139,414 remaining to be paid for work done during June and July 2010. Since November 2007 e-Borders has paid £188.9 million to Raytheon.

Performance indicators were included within work packages agreed with Deloitte Consulting. These included detailed lists of deliverables to be completed within scheduled timescales. The acceptance criteria were agreed by the manager of the relevant workstream with a review being completed prior to acceptance.

Reports of monthly progress were reviewed and agreed at the programme level.

These detailed the work completed and activities to be completed in the following month. Any failure to complete a deliverable to the accepted criteria would result in a percentage deduction in fees. No incentives were agreed within work packages.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions each Minister in her Department has met the Chief Scientific Officer in her Department since 6 May 2010. [10029]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* I have met with Professor Bernard Silverman, the Home Office's Chief Scientific Officer on one occasion.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has met with him once on 28 July 2010; the Minister of State for Security and Counter-Terrorism has met with him five times; the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice has met with him once; and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime Prevention has met with him on two occasions.

In addition, Professor Silverman has been present at a number of larger meetings chaired by the Home Secretary, and one chaired by the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice.

Detainees: Children

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained in immigration removal centres since 6 May 2010. [13606]

Damian Green: Published management information shows 115 children entered detention and were held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q2 2010. Of these, 50 children had entered between 6 May and 30 June.

The latest published information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers relating to the second quarter 2010 are available in the Table 3.4 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April to June 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have been clear in their commitment to end the detention of children. We therefore continue to work with our corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining our immigration laws.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the financial effects on educational institutions of implementation of her Department's proposed changes to the student visa system. [14039]

Damian Green: It is the Government's aim to reduce net migration to sustainable levels; tens of thousands not hundreds of thousands. The Government will be reviewing the non-economic immigration routes with a view to bringing forward proposals in due course. Economic impact on the sector will be assessed as part of the detailed consideration of the student visa system.

Security Industry: Regulation

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring into force those provisions of the Crime and Security Act 2010 relating to the private security industry not yet in force. [11940]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* I announced on 17 August 2010 the Government's intention to ban wheel-clamping and towing on private land in England and Wales. The ban will be included in the Government's Freedom Bill which will be introduced later this year. Accordingly, sections 42 and 44 of the Crime and Security Act 2010, which provide for the regulation of the vehicle immobilisation industry by way of business licensing, will be repealed.

The 2010 Act also includes a provision, section 43, which would extend the scope of the Security Industry Authority's voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme beyond private security contractors to enable other businesses to apply for membership in respect of their in-house security operations. The Government will consider their plans for commencement of this provision in due course.

UK Border Agency: Patrol Craft

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to review the number of vessels used by the UK Border Agency for coastline patrols. [13213]

Damian Green: In line with the requirements of the Comprehensive Spending Review, all UKBA resources and assets are under review and this includes the Border Force cutter fleet.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of coastline patrols by the UK Border Agency was in each of the last five years. [13214]

Damian Green: Approximate operating costs (running costs for vessels and crew salaries) are as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	9.2
2006-07	9.5
2007-08	10.8
2008-09	10.3
2009-10	10.9

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vessels are used by the UK Border Agency to patrol the Scottish coastline; and how many staff are employed to crew these vessels. [13215]

Damian Green: Our Cutter fleet is deployed according to risk and intelligence and works closely with other agencies and is a key component in making our border secure. In order to respond effectively to risk and intelligence one cutter and on occasion two cutters are deployed in Scottish waters. Each cutter carries a maximum crew of 12 border force officers.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made following coastline patrols by the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [13216]

Damian Green: The number of arrests made in the last five years in relation to patrols by cutters in UK and international waters respect of the seizures is as follows:

	Arrests
2006	6
2007	2
2008	23
2009	5
2010	[1]3

[1] Arrests to date

It is important note that these figures do not include arrests which may have been made by other agencies and police forces.

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children are being held at Yarl's Wood detention centre. [13605]

Damian Green: Published data, using the usual rounding conventions in our statistical publications to ensure the confidentiality of individual case files, show that as at 30 June 2010 there were less than three people detained solely under Immigration Act powers at Yarl's Wood removal centre who were recorded as being less than 18 years of age. This figure includes any cases where the age is disputed at the time.

Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers relating to the second quarter 2010 are available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April to June 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have been clear in their commitment to end the detention of children. We therefore continue to work with our corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining our immigration laws.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

ICT

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many field visits staff and officers of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have made to assess the effectiveness of its remote data access system since 7 May 2010. [13666]

Mr Charles Walker: The online expenses system is monitored remotely for effectiveness frequently. This allows IPSA to see how the remote access system is working and therefore field visits specifically to assess remote access are not required.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many complaints the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has received about loss of data entered into its online claims system since 7 May 2010. [13667]

Mr Charles Walker: The IPSA has advised me that it is not aware of any complaints relating to loss of data entered into the online expenses system.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the log out parameters for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority online claims system are. [13668]

Mr Charles Walker: To log off the online expenses system users must first click the "log off" button in red at the top of the screen and close the window before signing out of the secure website by clicking on "sign out" on the right had side of the screen.

If the page is closed prematurely while the user is logged in, the system will lock the user out for a period of approximately five minutes.

In addition, to protect MPs data, the online expense system automatically logs users out after five minutes of inactivity.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reason the hon. Member for Bassetlaw was unable to access the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority online expenses system at 14.30 on 29 July 2010. [13669]

Mr Charles Walker: The online expense system suffered a technical problem on 29 July 2010 resulting in a short period of unavailability. This was remedied on the same afternoon by stopping and restarting the web services.

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, when the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority plans to reimburse the hon. Member for Bassetlaw for his claims for sums spent on office rental. [13670]

Mr Charles Walker: The IPSA has advised me that it does not consider it appropriate to comment publicly on expense claims submitted by individual MPs.

Redundancy Pay

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority staff have received redundancy payments; of what amount in each case; and for what reasons. [14305]

Mr Charles Walker: No IPSA staff have received redundancy payments.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conflict Resolution: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials of his Department have engaged in the cross-departmental process on renewal of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in the last month; and what the payband of each such official is. [13643]

Mr O'Brien: Nine officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) have been engaged in the cross-departmental process of renewing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in the past month. A senior civil servant (deputy director) is leading this process, supported by two senior advisers (DFID A1 payband), five advisers (A2 payband) and one programme coordinator (B1 payband).

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in each year since 2005. [12494]

Mr O'Brien: Amounts spent on external consultants and advisers by the Department for International Development (DFID) in each financial year since 2007-08 are set out in the table. Information on a comparable basis is not available for earlier periods. No external consultancies were commissioned by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, DFID's only non-departmental public body, from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

	Consultancy spending (£000)
2007-08	21,200
2008-09	24,500
2009-10	19,100

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12722]

Mr O'Brien: In 2008, the Department for International Development cancelled an internal information technology project run by our Pakistan office. The project had spent £7,000 at the point of cancellation.

Developing Countries: Debts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many countries with debts to the UK had all or part of that debt cancelled between 1997 and May 2010. [13672]

Mr O'Brien: At least 49 countries with debts to the UK had all or part of that debt cancelled between 1997 and May 2010.

Information on debt relief from the Department for International Development (DFID) before 2001 could not be provided without disproportionate cost. This figure therefore includes (i) debt relief provided by DFID 2001 to 2010 and (ii) debt relief provided by the Export Credit Guarantees Department 1997 to May 2010.

East Kilbride

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* rent and *(b)* operating cost of his Department's offices at (i) Abercrombie House, East Kilbride and (ii) Palace Street, London SW1 were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [12163]

Mr O'Brien: The rent and operating costs for Abercrombie House (East Kilbride) and Palace Street (London) during the financial year 2009-10, were as follows:

2009-10	*Abercrombie House*	*Palace Street*	*Total (£)*
Rent	Freehold	5,245,684	5,245,684
Operating costs	[1]1,459,000	2,054,000*	3,513,000

[1] Excludes rates

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's property at *(a)* Abercrombie House, East Kilbride and *(b)* Palace Street, London SW1 is vacant. [12164]

Mr O'Brien: None of the Department for International Development's property in Palace Street or Abercrombie House is vacant. 1 Palace Street is shared with Visit

Britain and Visit England (agencies of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport).

International Assistance: Disability

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what objectives he has for policy on assistance for disabled people in developing countries at the forthcoming UN summit on the Millennium Development Goals. [12209]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government, along with our European Union partners, are working hard to secure the strongest possible outcomes for the world's poor at the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) summit next month to ensure that efforts to reach the MDGs seek to support the poorest and most vulnerable people, including disabled people.

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a major cause of disability in the developing world. Successfully addressing the NTDs challenge is fundamental to achieving the MDGs, particularly MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases). The Department for International Development is working to ensure a substantive reference to NTDs and maternal and child health in the MDG summit's outcome document which will focus international efforts and actions over the next five years. Focusing on improving health in the developing world will help to reduce incidences of disability.

Israel

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to *(a)* B'Tselem, *(b)* HaMoked, *(c)* Yesh Din, *(d)* Ir Amin, *(e)* Bimkom, *(f)* the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, *(g)* the Israeli Committee Against House Demolition, *(h)* Gisha, *(i)* the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, *(j)* Peace Now, *(k)* Mossawa and *(l)* Breaking the Silence in each financial year since 2005-06; for what purposes those payments were made; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's spending on each such programme or project undertaken by each such organisation. [11500]

Mr Duncan: The Department of International Development (DFID) has not provided funding directly to any of these organisations. However DFID, along with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence provides funding to the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). For details of CPP support to these organisations and the UK Government's view of their effectiveness, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, (Mr Hague) of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 219-21W.

Libya: Overseas Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have had with their Libyan counterparts on his Department's work in that country in the last 12 months. [12303]

Mr O'Brien: Neither Ministers nor officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) have had discussions with their Libyan counterparts.

Overseas Aid: Finance

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's budget for overseas aid *(a)* was in 1997-98 and *(b)* is in 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the number of people lifted out of poverty by actions attributable to UK aid expenditure in each year since 1997. [13673]

Mr O'Brien: United Kingdom official development assistance in 1997 was £2.1 billion. The Department for International Development's (DFID) budget for 2010-11 is £7.7 billion. The total level of official development assistance from other Government Departments and agencies for 2010-11 will be finalised in the course of the current spending review.

DFID does not hold estimates of the number of people lifted out of poverty by actions attributable to UK aid expenditure in each year since 1997. Recent estimates suggest that DFID's aid lifts 3 million people out of poverty each year.

The Government are committed to making UK aid more effective in reducing poverty, through improved transparency and value for money. As part of this work, we are looking to develop new ways of standardising and aggregating the results of individual projects to help improve estimates of our impact on poverty reduction.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Government of South Africa, *(b)* African Union and *(c)* Southern African Development Community members on progress on the provisions of the Zimbabwean Global Political Agreement relating to land audit. [12740]

Mr O'Brien: In recent months, the Secretary of State has had discussions with key interlocutors in the Zimbabwean Global Political Agreement process. These discussions have not gone into the specifics of moving forward on a land audit.

The UK continues to work closely with other donors through the United Nations and World Bank in supporting the policies required for an effective land audit. We will consider further support to a physical land audit when we are confident this will be used for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe.

JUSTICE

Prisoners: Religion

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of which prisons he has received recent reports on the religious radicalisation of prisoners. [12410]

Mr Blunt: Prison staff are asked to submit reports to prison security departments on any subject of concern. Guidance and training have been provided to help staff identify potential concerns around extremism and radicalisation. The guidance draws a clear distinction with the legitimate practice of faith or expression of political ideas. Where staff observe behaviours which give rise to concern they are reported using these established procedures. Each report is considered and its likely reliability and importance assessed, in order for appropriate actions to be taken.

It is important to note that reporting may be partial, uncorroborated or duplicative. Therefore the number of prisons where reports of radicalisation has been received does not of itself indicate an established or absolute level of risk.

In the most recent three month period (May to July 2010), national recording systems show 44 prisons in England and Wales logged Security Information Reports of incidents which might relate to manifestations of attempted radicalisation. This figure represents a snapshot in time influenced by operational variables such as population mix, regime and other factors.

Radicalisation is a societal phenomenon; the holding of extremist views does not necessarily lead to violent extremist behaviour and the challenge is to identify and manage risks appropriately. Prisons therefore work closely with the police and other partners to manage those risks among offenders and have a developed programme of work to deliver more effective management of those risks.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Care Proceedings: Finance

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the High Cost Case Unit spent on *(a)* solicitors' costs, *(b)* counsels' fee and *(c)* disbursements on care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [12655]

(2) how much the High Cost Case Unit spent on care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [12656]

(3) how much was spent by the High Cost Case Unit on the 10 most costly care proceedings in the last 12 months for which the figures are available. [12654]

Mr Djanogly: The most costly public law Children Act proceedings, for which the final bill was authorised in financial year 2009-10, were as follows:

1. £356,400
2. £323,580
3. £271,330
4. £229,860
5. £221,910
6. £217,030
7. £215,200
8. £214,880
9. £212,340
10. £211,120

Spend on public law Children Act cases in financial year 2009-10, under the very high cost case (VHCC) scheme, was £57 million. This figure includes solicitor fees, counsel fees and disbursements.

Civil VHCC costs are not recorded centrally in a way that separates *(a)* solicitor costs, *(b)* counsel fees and *(c)* disbursement costs. Therefore the detailed information requested is not readily available.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case; [12324]

(2) how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12325]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was created in May 2007 and information relating to buildings and land, including rents, is only held centrally from that date. Obtaining this information before May 2007 would incur disproportionate costs. Information on MoJ non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The following tables give details of the proceeds of the sale of properties and amounts paid in rent since May 2007. It includes information from MoJ headquarters, National Offender Management Service Agency (custodial and non-custodial), HM Courts Service, Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian.

A breakdown of buildings and land sold is not available and information on the sale of properties is not held on a regional basis. The following tables detail total revenue from the sale of land and property by MoJ bodies.

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Her Majesty's Courts Service	6.6	11.0	1.5	12.1	2.5
Office of the Public Guardian	0	0	0	0	0
Tribunal Service	0	0	0	0	0
National Offender Management Service Agency	12.8	22.1	12.1	10.4	3.1
Ministry of Justice Headquarters	—	0	0	0	0

Information on rent paid on MoJ properties is not held on a regional basis, other than for London. The following tables provide figures for rents paid.

England

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Her Majesty's Courts Service	36.0	41.3	43.4
Office of the Public Guardian[1]	0	0	0
Tribunals Service	29.9	29.9	29.1
National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency[2]	—	17.6	17.5
MoJ headquarters	27.8	28.1	26.4

[1] Rent for the OPG is paid by the Ministry of Justice headquarters.

[2] Central records of rent paid by NOMS agency is not held before 2008-09. It is not broken down by region and includes data for Wales which could not be disaggregated.

Scotland

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Tribunals Service[1]	2.5	2.4	2.4

[1] The Tribunals Service is the only part of the MoJ that pays rent on property in Scotland.

Wales

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Her Majesty's Courts Service	1,300,000	1,400,000	2,000,000
Office of the Public Guardian[1]	0	0	0
Tribunal Service	1,000,000	1,000,000	955,369
National Offender Management Service[2]	—	—	—
MoJ HQ	116,806	116,461	116,461

[1] Rent for the OPG is paid by the Ministry of Justice HQ.

[2] Central records of rent paid by NOMS Agency are not held before 2008-09. They are included in the data for England in the table above.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much office space per employee his Department and its predecessors occupied in each year since 1997; [12996]

(2) how much his Department and its predecessors spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13015]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 and information before then is not held centrally. Obtaining these details would incur disproportionate costs.

The following data include headquarters buildings for the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency, including custodial and non-custodial estate, the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian. HM Courts Service details are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on over 60 other MOJ agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Office space per employee

Square metre

Body	*Office space per employee 2007-08*	*Office space per employee 2008-09*	*Office space per employee 2009-10*
Ministry of Justice headquarters	17	15	n/a
National Offender Management Service Agency	n/a	n/a	12
Tribunals Service	8	9	10
Office of the Public Guardian	n/a	n/a	10

n/a = Not available

Note:

Data on floor space for MOJ headquarters for the period 2009-10 have not yet been processed. The details in the table are based on available information.

With regard to vacant property, information is only available for the NOMS Agency from 2008-09. A cost of £517,000 was incurred in 2008-09 and £719,000 in 2009-10.

Drugs: Crime

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of an offence of involvement in illegal drug trafficking or usage in each year since 2006. [13639]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drug trafficking and possession of illegal drugs, England and Wales 2006 to 2008 (latest available), is given in the table.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences related to drugs trafficking and possession[1]. England and Wales, 2006 to 2008[2,3,4,5]

	Proceeded against			*Found guilty*		
Drug trafficking offence description	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Unlawful importation of a drug controlled under misuse of Drugs Act 1971	874	818	830	835	783	745
Unlawful exportation of a drug controlled under misuse of Drugs Act 1971	29	38	16	35	36	29
Production of or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug.	1,903	2,649	3,300	1,480	2,120	2,627
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.	6,572	7,130	7,931	5,062	5,499	6,443
Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug.	4,232	4,323	4,508	3,499	3,507	3,940
Having a controlled drug in possession on a ship; Being knowingly concerned in the carrying or concealing of a controlled drug on a ship.	1	1	5	1	1	—
Concealing or transferring the proceeds of drug trafficking; Assisting another person to retain the benefit of drug trafficking; Acquisition, possession or use of proceeds of drug trafficking.	21	21	11	6	7	6
Total drugs trafficking offences	13,632	14,980	16,601	10,918	11,953	13,790

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences related to drugs trafficking and possession[1], England and Wales, 2006 to 2008[2,3,4,5]

	Proceeded against			*Found guilty*		
Drug trafficking offence description	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total possession offences[1]	29,725	33,195	39,510	28,040	31,722	38,087

[1] Includes offences under statutes: Customs and Excise Management Act 1979; Misuse of Drugs Act 1671; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1694; Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990; Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

[2] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed the number proceeded against as the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Fines: Magistrates Courts

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value was of outstanding fines imposed by Bexley Magistrates Court in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value was of fines written off in that period. [12543]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS systems do not identify the value of fines for individual courts as the accounting is managed in centralised units. To identify the value outstanding and written off for individual courts would incur a disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all court records.

Bexley is within the central and south area of the London Local Criminal Justice Board area so set out in the following table are the amounts outstanding and written off in the last three years.

The value of outstanding balance includes the amount owed for fines imposed in the magistrates and crown courts plus compensation, victims surcharge, costs and the value of unpaid fixed penalty notices that are transferred to HMCS for enforcement as a fine. The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances. The outstanding balance includes fines imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004 to 2006) and fines which are being paid by instalments. Some of the balance outstanding could be as much as 10 years old.

Fines can be either administratively cancelled or legally cancelled. Amounts written off can relate to fines that were imposed in either the current or any previous year.

Central and south London

£

	Amount outstanding	*Legally cancelled*	*Administratively cancelled*
2007-08	34,480,244	1,874,266	3,242,871
2008-09	38,157,039	2,484,088	5,584,663
2009-10	42,113,989	1,474,824	1,018,757

Magistrates Courts: Surrey

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many representations he has received from *(a)* residents of Surrey and *(b)* magistrates in Surrey on the closure of Woking Magistrates Court; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such representation. [12761]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation period extends until 15 September. We will share the number of responses received and a summary of them when the Lord Chancellor publishes his decision for each area.

As of 26 August the Department had received 142 formal responses to the consultation on the provision of court services in Kent Surrey and Sussex.

Prisoners: Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance his Department provides prisons on the *(a)* level and *(b)* means of calculation of remuneration paid to prisoners for work undertaken whilst in prison; [12411]

(2) what activities are classified as work for the purposes of the remuneration paid to prisoners. [12412]

Mr Blunt: Guidance on prisoners' pay is set out in Prison Service Order 4460 (Prisoners' Pay), a copy of which has been placed in the House Library. The order sets out minimum rates of prisoner pay and requires prison governors and directors of contracted prisons to devise local pay schemes that pay either the minimum or above the minimum rate of pay and that reflect regime priorities.

The purpose of paying prisoners is to encourage their constructive participation in the regime of the establishment. Prisoners are remunerated if they participate in purposeful activity which is defined as undertaking work, induction, education, training or offending behaviour programmes.

Prisons: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost to the public purse has been of the provision of each private finance initiative prison since its opening; [12909]

(2) what the operating cost has been of each private finance initiative prison since its opening. [12910]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to provide a complete answer to the hon. Member's question in relation to providing operating costs for these PFI contracts (since their opening), as centralised detailed historical data is not available for all periods in question, and to investigate further would incur significant disproportionate costs.

There are nine private finance initiative prison (PFI) contracts currently in place for England and Wales. The table that follows provides an annual net present valve (NPV) calculated for the winning bidder. It should be noted that there is no direct relationship in the table between the current estimated annual value of the contract for 2010-11 and the original NPV for the whole of life contract.

The current estimated value of the contracts is a forecast of their net value and is included for information. It should be noted that there are a number of changeable factors that affect the annual cost of running each of the prisons set out above, e.g. population levels, service requirements and variations in RPI to which the contracts are subject.

Name of Prison	*Location*	*25 year contract which ends:*	*Main service provider*	*Original opening net present value (NPV) (£ million)*	*Current estimated annual value 2010-11 (£)*
HMP Altcourse	Fazakerley, Merseyside	30 May 2023	G4S	[1]247	48,565,339
HMP Ashfield	Pucklechurch near Bristol	31 October 2024	Serco	[1]121	24,838,073
HMP Bronzefield	Ashford, Middlesex	16 June 2029	Kalyx	[1]219	28,102,124
HMP Dovegate	Marchington near Uttoxeter, Staffordshire	8 July 2026	Serco	[1]240	35,461,326
HMP Forest Bank	Salford, Greater Manchester	19 January 2025	Kalyx	[1]197	38,747,315
HMP Lowdham Grange	Nottingham	15 February 2023	Serco	[1]137	26,559,484
HMP Parc	Bridgend, South Wales	14 December 2022	G4S	[1]266	44,592,734
HMP Peterborough	Cambridgeshire	13 February 2028	Kalyx	[1]291	33,636,428
HMP Rye Hill	Onley, near Rugby, Warwickshire	20 January 2026	G4S	[1]154	19,940,044

[1] Over 25 years.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the construction cost was of each private finance initiative prison opened since 1996. [12911]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the construction cost of each private finance initiative (PFI) prison built since 1996.

Prison	*Opening date*	*Construction cost (£ million)*
Parc (Bridgend)	November 1997	47
Altcourse (Liverpool)	December 1997	68
Lowdham Grange (Nottingham)	February 1998	25
Ashfield (Bristol)	November 1999	26
Forest Bank (Manchester)	January 2000	45
Rye Hill (Rugby)	January 2001	37
Dovegate (Uttoxeter)	July 2001	64
Bronzefield (Ashford, Surrey)	June 2004	43
Peterborough	March 2005	68

Additionally, the contract for a new PFI prison at Belmarsh West (South East London) was signed on 30 June 2010 and construction has started. The estimated construction cost is £97 million.

Prisons: Trade Unions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet representatives of Prison Service trade unions. [12007]

Mr Blunt: I met with representatives of the POA, PCS and the Prison Service Joint Industrial Council on 6 September and representatives of the Prison Governors' Association on 8 September.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12977]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) accounting systems do not record expenditure on taxis separately from other forms of travel and subsistence. This is also true of the Ministry's predecessor departments, the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor's Department. It would incur disproportionate costs to examine thousands of individual expense claims and Government Procurement Card records held locally to isolate expenditure on taxis.

Some information is available for central functions within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the former Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) for the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 from Home Office systems. As accounting records were migrated to MoJ's systems in November/December 2008, expenditure for 2007-08 is not for the full year.

National Offender Management Services Centre

	£000 (rounded)
2005-06	64
2006-07	72
2007-08	89

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

	£000 (rounded)
2005-06	121
2006-07	14
2007-08	15

All travel by Ministry of Justice staff members and Ministers is completed in line with the published rules for official travel and subsistence within the staff handbook. The rules are in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

The MoJ's policy on staff use of taxis states that staff

"may only claim reimbursement of taxi fares where there is no other suitable form of public transport or if you have heavy luggage to transport or where the saving in official time is important"

Unpaid Fines

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value was of outstanding fines imposed by *(a)* Keighley magistrates' court and *(b)* Bradford Magistrates' Court in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value was of fines written off in that period. [12401]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS systems do not identify the value of fines for individual courts as the accounting is managed in centralised units. To identify the value outstanding and written off for individual courts would incur a disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all court records.

Keighley and Bradford are both within the West Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board Area so set out in the table are the amounts outstanding and written off in the last three years.

The value of outstanding balance includes the amount owed for fines imposed in the magistrates and crown courts plus compensation, victims surcharge, costs and the value of unpaid fixed penalty notices that are transferred to HMCS for enforcement as a fine. The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances. The outstanding balance includes fines imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004-06) and fines which are being paid by instalments. Some of the balance outstanding could be as much as 10 years old.

Fines can be either administratively cancelled or legally cancelled. Amounts written off can relate to fines that were imposed in either the current or any previous year.

West Yorkshire

£

	Amount outstanding	*Legally cancelled*	*Administratively cancelled*
2007-08	12,890,971	3,456,578	4,187,950
2008-09	14,852,420	2,456,015	1,300,731
2009-10	17,067,374	3,627,781	1,044,621

SCOTLAND

Departmental Responsibilities

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what meetings with external parties he held in the week beginning 20 July 2010. [13607]

Michael Moore: In the week beginning 20 July 2010, I met with a wide range of external parties, from a cross-section of sectors.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which meetings he was due to hold did not take place in the week beginning 20 July 2010. [13608]

Michael Moore: Meetings may occasionally have to be postponed for a variety of reasons and rescheduled as soon as practical for all parties. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Horse Racing

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the contribution of horseracing in Scotland to the Scottish economy; and if he will meet Friends of Scottish Racing to discuss this matter. [13632]

Michael Moore: I have not yet had the opportunity to discuss the contribution of horseracing in Scotland to the Scottish economy with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport.

Social Security Benefits

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the likely effects of changes to the benefits system on people in Scotland; and if he will visit carers in East Lothian to discuss this matter with them. [13631]

Michael Moore: I have had a number of discussions on these issues with ministerial colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. As I said previously in my response to PQ 12562 on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 12W, the Spending Review Framework document issued by HM Treasury on 8 June 2010 states that the Government will look closely at the effects of their decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, across the United Kingdom.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the implications for UK air transport safety and security of the abolition of his Department's Transport Security and Contingencies team (TRANSEC); and what estimate he has made of the effect on the public purse of the transfer of TRANSEC's responsibilities to the Home Office. [14096]

Mrs Villiers: No decision has been taken to abolish TRANSEC. The cost of all Department for Transport activity is under review in the comprehensive spending review.

M5: Gloucestershire

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on installing traffic lights at junction 12 of the M5 as part of the section 106 undertaking in respect of the Hunt's Grove development. [13396]

Mike Penning: Work to improve M5 junction 12 including the installation of traffic signals to improve traffic flows began on 6 September. The scheme also includes remodelling the roundabouts at that junction. To minimise delays to traffic these works will be carried out overnight and will take approximately 14 weeks to complete. The scheme is being funded by contributions from three developers as well as the Highways Agency.

Motorways: Ashton under Lyne

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times *(a)* the grass has been cut and *(b)* litter has been collected from the (i) roundabout on junction 24 of the M60 and (ii) area surrounding junction 2 on the M67 in the latest period for which figures are available. [13722]

Mike Penning: Since January 2010, the Highways Agency has cut the grass where required for safety reasons, at Junction 24 of the M60, on one occasion. Along the entire length of the M67, including Junction 2, the agency has twice cut the grass where required for safety reasons, within that period.

Since January 2010, the agency has undertaken 11 litter clearance exercises at Junction 24 of the M60. Within that period, seven litter clearance exercises have been undertaken along the entire length of the M67, including junction 2.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the frequency of grass cutting and litter collection is on the area surrounding junction 2 on the M67. [13723]

Mike Penning: The frequency of grass cutting is determined by regular inspections to ensure that the grass is kept at a level that will not affect visibility for motorists. The Highways Agency continually monitors the entire length of the M67, including junction 2, and cuts the grass on its land as and when required. This continual monitoring also determines the timing of the agency's litter clearance exercises along the M67.

Railways: Gloucester

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what proportion of passenger rail services *(a)* departing from and *(b)* arriving at Gloucester railway station were on time in each year since 1997; [13402]

(2) how many passenger rail services called at Gloucester railway station in each year since 1997. [13403]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested.

Network Rail is responsible for performance data for the rail industry. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for such information:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Railways: Kent

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what public consultation his Department plans to undertake on the timetable specification for the next Integrated Kent Franchise. [13841]

Mrs Villiers: The current Integrated Kent Franchise is operated by Southeastern and is due to end in March 2014. The Department for Transport would normally consult on the contents of a new franchise around 18 months before a replacement franchise is due to commence.

It should be noted that the Department is currently consulting on amendments to the franchising system, which may alter the process that will be employed in future.

Railways: Lincoln

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Network Rail on its proposed closure of Lincoln high street level crossing for up to 40 minutes an hour between 0800 and 1900 daily. [13635]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers and officials communicate regularly with Network Rail. The operation of Lincoln high street level crossing is an operational matter for Network Rail.

Network Rail advises that the possible proposed additional down-time of the level crossing derives from a scheme involving upgrades at various locations on the joint line from Werrington Junction, near Peterborough, to Doncaster via Spalding, Lincoln and Gainsborough Lea road. This route forms a major part of the Strategic Freight Network programme and works in conjunction with the Felixstowe to Nuneaton project and other grade separation schemes to free up capacity for passenger services on the network.

Network Rail understands that proposals to increase freight capacity through Lincoln will have an impact on the level crossing. The company has been working closely with Lincolnshire county council, and will continue to work with all parties to achieve a suitable solution. I note that the hon. Member has been in touch with Network Rail on this issue.

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department discussed with East Coast Trains its decision not to operate a direct rail route between Lincoln and London seven times per day; and whether the decision has temporary or permanent effect. [13636]

Mrs Villiers: The decision to provide one new through service between Lincoln and London in the May 2011 timetable rather than the seven originally proposed was taken following discussions with the train operator.

The forthcoming refranchising of intercity East Coast train services will provide an opportunity for potential train operators to review the number of through services between Lincoln and London that might be provided in the future.

Railways: North West

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on rail services in the North West; and if he will make a statement. [13079]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State regularly meets with stakeholders from across the rail industry, including Network Rail. Such discussions may include reference to rail services in the north-west.

As Minister of State, I met with Network Rail during a visit to Manchester in July. Topics discussed included the Northern Hub study and Network Rail's proposals for improvements to Manchester Victoria station.

I refer the hon. Member to my previous answers on north-west rail services on 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 38-39W and 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 299-300W.

Railways: Theft

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to prevent the theft of metals from the railway network. [14061]

Mrs Villiers: Metal theft is a crime which hits the railway particularly hard and causes levels of disruption out of all proportion to the value of the material stolen. That is why the British Transport Police, as the national police force for the railway, is in the forefront of efforts to tackle the problem.

The British Transport Police hosted a national conference on the subject in Leeds last July bringing together police forces, Network Rail, the scrap metal industry and others with an interest to consider further measures to deal with cable and other metal theft. The approach is to target the thieves and the scrap yards where they seek to sell their stolen material.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what target he has set for a reduction in the number of road casualties over the next five years. [12972]

Mike Penning: The UK already has some of the safest roads in the world, but the coalition is considering how to make them even safer and whether this will include targets going forward.

Roads: Lincoln

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will meet a delegation of local representatives to discuss the prospects for the Lincoln Eastern Bypass project. [13637]

Norman Baker: I will be happy to meet a delegation led by the hon. Member. Please write to my office at the Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham street, London SW1P 4DR to arrange a suitable date and time.

Travel: Concessions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to provide special grant payments to travel concession authorities to fund the national concessionary travel scheme beyond March 2011. [13671]

Norman Baker: The special grant funding provided to Travel Concession Authorities by the Department for Transport following the introduction of the England-wide scheme in 2008 covered the period from 2008-09 through to 2010-11. The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently consulting on the distribution of formula grant funding to local authorities from April 2011 onwards. The proposals set out in that consultation include transferring the concessionary travel special grant into formula grant. Final decisions on the future funding route for the concessionary travel scheme will be taken as part of the spending review.

TREASURY

Departmental Internet

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister in his Department authorised the launch of the Spending Challenge website. [13873]

Justine Greening: The Spending Challenge website was launched by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 9 July on his constituent, Mr A Burny. [13882]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 26 July on his constituent, Mr J Dewhurst. [13883]

Justine Greening: The hon. Member's correspondence was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions which will reply directly.

WALES

Fast Jet Training

13. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on fast jet training in Wales. [13145]

Mrs Gillan: I have had discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on a number of defence issues affecting Wales.

The Government are in the final stages of the Strategic Defence and Security Review which includes all aspects of defence. Final decisions will be made by the National Security Council in the autumn. As part of this review, I have arranged to speak with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence in the coming days to discuss the possible effects of the review on defence projects in Wales, including fast jet training.

Legislative Powers: National Assembly

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if the Government will make it their policy to support the granting of additional legislative powers to the National Assembly for Wales. [13146]

Mrs Gillan: It is for the people of Wales to decide whether the National Assembly for Wales gains further legislative powers. The Government are committed to holding a referendum by the end of the first quarter of next year. We will not prejudge the outcome.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Age: Discrimination

James Wharton: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent representations she has received on whether increases in travel insurance premiums from the age of retirement constitute age discrimination; and if she will make a statement. [12500]

Lynne Featherstone: Since taking office in May 2010 I have received one letter on whether increases in travel insurance premiums from the age of retirement constitute age discrimination.

The Government remain committed to ending harmful age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services. Given the fast-changing demographics as people live longer, it is even more important to ensure that older people are treated fairly when accessing products such as travel insurance.

A ban on age discrimination in the provisions of goods, facilities and services is contained in the Equality Act 2010. The Government are currently considering how these provisions can be implemented in the best way for business.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by the Government Equalities Office was in each of the last five years. [13067]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office is unable to provide data about daily rates as this information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since its creation on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has spent the following amounts on consultancy.

Financial year	*Consultancy spend (£)*	*Number of consultancies*	*Average cost of consultancy (£)*
2007-08[1]	12,138	1	12,138
2008-09	19,673	5	3,934
2009-10	0	0	0
2010-11[2]	0	0	0

[1] From 12 October 2007

[2] As at 31 July 2010

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10122]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office spent £1,803 on the provision of hospitality at a ministerial event in June 2010. There was no expenditure on hospitality in May.

Equalities and Human Rights Commission

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many complaints of *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* disability discrimination at work have been made by staff of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in each of the last four years. [12372]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

The following table details the number of complaints received by the Commission since its inception in 2007 in the format of grievances and employment tribunal claim forms (ET1).

Year of complaint	*Race*	*Disability*	*Sex*	*Sex and disability*	*Sex and race*	*Sex, disability and race*	*Total*
October 2007 to March 2008	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
April 2008 to March 2009	5	1	6	1	2	0	15
April 2009 to March 2010	1	3	3	0	0	1	8
April 2010 to July2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	5	10	1	2	1	25

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13047]

Chris Grayling: DWP spent the following on:

(a) reimbursement of staff expenses in each of the years since 2005-06.

	Total amount reimbursed in staff expenses (£ million)	*Reimbursed expenses as percentage of paybill*
2005-06	64.90	2.03
2006-07	75.96	2.47
2007-08	63.97	2.11
2008-09	54.08	1.79
2009-10	58.65	1.84

Notes:
1. The figures above cover staff travel costs, including rail, air, car hire and staff subsistence and incidental costs.
2. Information prior to 2005-06 is not available.

(b) On the 10 largest claims, that information would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13301]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions became a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code in March 2009 and set a target to pay 90% of correct invoices within 10 days of receipt. This target applies to all invoices paid by the Department and its agencies. The target has been met consistently since the signing of the Code.

The percentage of all supplier payments made within 10 days of receipt of an invoice for July is 97%.

I will let the hon. Member have the information on August's figures as soon as possible.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12445]

Steve Webb: Such information that is available is in the following table.

£ million

	Year ending			
Pension contributions costs by:	*31 March 2011*	*31 March 2010*	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2008*
Departmental	474.0	464.8	425.9	421.9
Executive Agencies:				
Jobcentre Plus	294.3	286.9	248.3	244.7
Pensions Disability Carers Service	50.4	52.1	56.0	61.6
Crown Non-Departmental Public Bodies:				
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	32.1	32.2	33.4	35.6
Health and Safety Executive	26.7	26.5	25.2	24.4

Source:
Published Accounts.

The table details employer contributions to the Principal Civil Service Pension scheme made by the Department, Executive Agencies and Crown Non-Departmental Public Bodies per the published accounts for the three years ended 31 March 2010, and forecast information for the year ended 31 March 2011. Please note that the forecast information is based on actuals for the four months ended 31 July 2010, extrapolated for the remainder of the year.

Information has only been included for entities included in the Resource Accounting boundary. The corporate centre figures are not published separately but are included in the departmental figures.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them by *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility. [12269]

Chris Grayling: Securing the opinions of young people is essential to the Department for Work and Pensions and its Ministers.

We encourage the involvement, not only of young people, but of all groups in society, in our policy-making processes. We highlight major consultations as widely as possible, notifying them to a wide variety of interested parties through relevant media, and produce them in a number of formats to promote ease of access.

We work routinely with a wide variety of stakeholders and, through our various consultative forums, DWP and its agencies endeavour to involve a full range of customer organisations that represent the interests of all our customers, including young people. For example:

Our Equality Schemes Customer Reference Group was formed to help the Department involve customers specifically on equality issues and to act as a consultation group. It provides insight across the range of the Department's policies and services through the personal experience of the representatives. A protected characteristic of its remit is age and a young representative has been specifically recruited to be a regular member of the group.

Equality 2025 is a high-level advisory group of disabled people which offers Ministers and senior Government officials strategic advice at the very early stages of policy development and in-depth examinations of existing policy areas on issues that affect disabled people. The group has members who have experience in dealing with issues that affect young people, and includes two young disabled people.

Under the auspices of the European year for combating poverty, DWP is funding a project in conjunction with the EU which involves the voices of young people. The project is being managed by Save the Children and is called Inspiring Change. The project supports young people to run 'change' projects to the benefit of their communities, while learning new skills.

DWP regularly uses customer insight research techniques to gain a better understanding of their customers. This has included recently seeking the views of young people as part of a cross-section of customers on a variety of topics including the barriers homeless and people with mental health problems experience in joining the labour market, their experience in claiming benefits including Social Fund and the design of future service delivery models.

Children and young people are a priority customer group within the Pension Disability and Carers Service. In recognition of this, the Family Carers Group was established. This is a forum which provides a focus on issues specific to children and young people claiming disability living allowance and provides a mechanism for consultation on service delivery issues impacting on them.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department contributed to each carer's charity it funds in each of the last 12 months. [13675]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies do not ordinarily directly fund charities. The Department does, however, work closely with charities and voluntary organisations to help people access the services and benefits to which they are entitled.

The Department also encourages a wide range of providers from the voluntary and charitable sectors—alongside providers in the private and public sectors—to contract with it to deliver employment programmes. It is not possible, however, to identify payments made to charitable organisations except at disproportionate cost; the Department's payment systems identify the individual recipients, but do not show the status of those recipients i.e. whether they are private, public, charitable or voluntary sector organisations.

Housing Benefit: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Coventry South constituency and *(b)* the west midlands who would be affected by implementation of his proposed changes to housing benefit. [13663]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July, which includes analysis at the local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average change in the amount of benefit received by each claimant in *(a)* Coventry South constituency and *(b)* the West Midlands arising from his proposed reforms. [13664]

Chris Grayling: We are committed to reforming the benefits system to make work pay and are seeking views on a range of options set out in the consultation paper "21st Century Welfare" (Cm 7913).

The financial implications of any change will depend on the detailed design of the chosen option. We do not aim to reduce the levels of support for people in the most vulnerable circumstances; but these reforms must ensure that benefits are well targeted and go to those who need them most, backed up by the right help to get into work.

International Pension Centre: Translation Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the International Pension Centre spent on translation and interpretation in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [12424]

Steve Webb: The information is in the following table.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2005-06	309,000
2006-07	294,000
2007-08	198,000
2008-09	461,000
2009-10	231,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source:
Oracle Application Desktop Integrator (ADI) reports for each of the financial years.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the geographic direct dial phone number for the Jobcentre Plus area benefits office at James Watt Way, Crawley is; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost to benefit claimants of directing them to use 0845 phone numbers to contact area benefit offices. [13660]

Steve Webb: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the geographic direct dial phone number for the Jobcentre Plus area benefits office at James Watt Way, Crawley is; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost to benefit claimants of directing them to use 0845 phone numbers to contact area benefit offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) telephony strategy is to rationalise the numbers we publish for our customers so that they are clearly directed to the service they require. Jobcentre Plus contact centres operate a virtual telephony network where calls are directed to the next available advisor with the appropriate skills to answer customers' enquiries. Disclosure of the geographic number you requested would compromise this strategy and would lead to a reduced service to our customers.

Additionally, releasing geographic numbers behind the 0845 service lines would result in additional costs to Jobcentre Plus as we would not be able to manage calls as effectively. Jobcentre Plus would also lose key call management information essential to the planning and allocation of staff resources.

It is free to call DWP 0800 numbers from BT landlines and agreements are in place to ensure that it is free to call via nine of the UK's largest mobile phone operators, representing 95% of the mobile market. The 0845 numbers are not part of the agreement because they are for enquiries that typically take less time to resolve. DWP strives to achieve the right balance between meeting customer needs and using taxpayers' money effectively.

Calls from landlines to 0845 numbers vary according to provider and are subject to periodic change. The rate is set based on the customer's personal contract arrangements. For example, BT, the largest landline provider, does not charge for 0845 calls where the customer has a Call Plan and the call is made within the call plan times. BT accounts for two-thirds of landline provision and our recent research shows that over 75% of our customers contact us using landlines.

As the cost to the customer of calling our 0845 numbers is dependant upon their method of calling and their personal call plans it is not possible to determine the cost of calls to the Department's 0845 telephone numbers.

Pensioners: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of pensioner poverty in *(a)* Leeds North West constituency and *(b)* Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [13641]

Steve Webb: We will restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011, with a "triple guarantee" that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. In the event that the basic state pension is increased by more than earnings in 2011, the Government's intention is that the majority of pension credit recipients will benefit from the full cash value of this increase.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to. We will be conducting a research study later this year into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

We will help prevent people from falling into poverty in later life by simplifying the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions. We will encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees and will work with businesses and the industry to support auto enrolment.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Leeds North West constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [13642]

Steve Webb: The information requested for those in receipt of the state pension and pension credit in Leeds North West constituency as at February 2010 has been placed in the Library.

Pensioners: Poverty

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were lifted out of poverty between 1997 and May 2010. [12298]

Steve Webb: Estimates of the number and proportion of pensioners living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

Figures for 1997-98 cover Great Britain only, as Northern Ireland data did not become available until the following year. The latest available data cover 2008-09.

Relative poverty for pensioners is defined as households with income below 60% of contemporary median equivalised income after housing costs.

In 1997-98, there were around 2.9 million pensioners in relative poverty in Great Britain, which equates to around 29% of all pensioners. The 2008-09 UK figures show that around 1.8 million pensioners were in relative poverty, equating to around 16%.

Estimates of the number of pensioners who have been lifted out of poverty are not available, as each year different households are surveyed to produce low income statistics in the Households Below Average Income series. However, information is available about the net change over the period requested. Between 1997-98 and 2008-09, the number of pensioners with incomes below 60% of the contemporary median income reduced by around 1.2 million in Great Britain.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty.

3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.

6. Numbers of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

7. These statistics are based on incomes after housing costs.

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority: Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons are for the increase in expenditure on travel by the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority between 2007-08 and 2008-09. [13353]

Steve Webb: The main reason for the lower reported expenditure in 2007-08 is because this only covers the single month of March 2008, whereas the figures for 2008-09 represent 12 month's expenditure. The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority only started to account for its own expenditure from 1 March 2008, when it achieved grant-in-aid status. Prior to this, all its expenditure was accounted for and reported within DWP accounts.

The year 2008-09 also represented a period of growth for PADA, when teams were expanded in London, Newcastle and Leeds in preparation for the procurement of services that will underpin the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). This period also necessitated a small number of overseas visits so that PADA could gain a better understanding of the scheme's administration and investment markets and how future NEST contracts for such services might be structured.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants receiving only national insurance contribution credits received a benefit sanction in 2009-10. [13257]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Information Commissioner on the proposal for use of credit ratings agencies to monitor benefit recipients' spending; what assessment he has made of the compliance of the proposal with data protection legislation; and if he will make a statement. [13653]

Steve Webb: The Secretary of State has not met with the Information Commissioner to discuss the Department's proposal to make wider use of Credit Reference Agency data. DWP officials have, however, had an initial meeting with the Information Commissioner on this issue and a follow up meeting is planned for later in September.

As discussions on the Department's proposals are ongoing, the Information Commissioner has not yet made an assessment of compliance with data protection legislation.

State Retirement Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of the full state retirement pension have accrued less than the full number of entitlement years by means of contributions or bought-back years. [13633]

Steve Webb: At the end of the 2008-09 tax year, there were 1.6 million individuals over state pension age in the UK and overseas whose full basic state pension entitlement depended on national insurance credits or home responsibilities protection awards.

Notes:

1. Figures exclude individuals for whom entitlement to full basic pension is derived wholly or in part from their former spouse's national insurance contributions.

2. The figure is for individuals reaching state pension age before 6 April 2009. These individuals are not affected by changes to the calculation of entitlement to the basic state pension for people reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate: Lifetime Labour Market Database 1% sample of the National Insurance Recording System.

Winter Fuel Payments

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were in receipt of the winter fuel payment on the date of each increase to the payment since its inception. [13534]

Steve Webb: The available information is in the tables.

	Rate of payment (£)	*Numbers of individuals*
1999-2000	100	10,084,130
2000-01	200	11,105,745
2001-02	200	11,201,895
2002-03	200	11,348,040

	Rate of payment (aged up to 79 years) (£)	*Rate of payment (aged 80+) (£)*	*Number of individuals (aged up to 79 years)*	*Number of individuals (aged 80+)*	*Total number of individuals*
2003-04	200	300	9,133,840	2,334,395	11,468,235
2004-05	200	300	9,087,935	2,313,225	11,401,170
2005-06	200	300	9,172,750	2,342,010	11,514,760
2006-07	200	300	9,326,030	2,376,870	11,702,900
2007-08	200	300	9,644,550	2,424,190	12,068,740
2008-09	250	400	9,886,690	2,470,700	12,357,390

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. All figures are for GB.

3. 2008-09 is the latest year for which figures are available.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what future rate of winter fuel payments he plans for people aged *(a)* 60 years or over and *(b)* 80 years or over. [14158]

Steve Webb: Households with someone born on or before 5 July 1950 will be eligible for a winter fuel payment in 2010-11. The payment for households with someone aged up to 79 years of age will be £250 and for households with someone aged 80 and over it will be £400.

Decisions for subsequent years are a matter for HM Treasury as part of the budget cycle.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 9 September 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Lewisham

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department plans to provide to Lewisham Homes for the purposes of meeting the Decent Homes standard in respect of its housing stock. [13836]

Andrew Stunell: The Homes and Communities Agency has made a provisional indicative capital funding offer of £153.8 million to Lewisham Homes to deliver a Decent Homes investment programme. Future funding allocations for the Decent Homes programme will be decided in the context of the spending review.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people there were seeking properties of each size on council house waiting lists in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [R] [13858]

Andrew Stunell: Information on social housing waiting lists is collected in terms of the number of households (rather than people). Information on the bedroom size requirement of households on social housing waiting lists, as at 1 April each year, is collected on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) from each local authority in England.

A table giving this information has been placed in the Library of the House. Information as at 1 April 2010 is due for publication in November/December 2010.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13042]

Robert Neill: Expenditure on reimbursement of staff expenses from 2002-03 is set out in the following table. Information for previous years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Reimbursement of staff expenses (£)
2002-03	2,385,831
2003-04	1,040,504
2004-05	1,046,485
2005-06	939,512
2006-07	836,829
2007-08	758,112
2008-09	785,698
2009-10	666,765

Information on the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many chairs his Department and its predecessors purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12803]

Robert Neill: The number of chairs purchased by Communities and Local Government, their cost and details of the five most expensive chairs purchased each year since its inception in 2006 are laid out in the two tables.

Chairs purchased by CLG

	Number purchased	*Cost (£000)*
2006	298	68,520
2007	1,751	464,362
2008	386	140,740
2009	1,210	390,680
2010	4	2,147

All this expenditure has been incurred prior to the 2010 general election, with the exception of two orthopaedic chairs.

	Five most expensive purchased
2006	Opera range (Advanced Seating Design), Think (Steelcase) and Imbrex (Godfrey Syrett)
2007	Opera 66 and other Opera range chairs (Advanced Seating Design)
2008	Opera 27 and other Opera range chairs (Advanced Seating Design) and orthopaedic chairs from Posturite range
2009	HM34 (Hitch Mylius), Opera 26 (Advance Seating Design) Lola (Allermuir), RH300 Logic(Posturite)
2010	Opera 30, Opera 30-8 and Opera 64 (Advance Seating Design)

With the exception of the Think chairs purchased in 2006 and the Lola and Hitch Mylius chairs purchased in 2009, the remainder of the most expensive chairs purchased each year, including all chairs purchased in 2010, are orthopaedic chairs that have been tailored to meet the specific outcomes of display screen assessments and workstation assessments.

No specific data are held for chairs purchased in the period from 1997 to 2005.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12718]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each region of England and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12471]

Robert Neill: The cost of pension contributions made over the last three financial years for the main Department is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2007-08	15.6
2008-09	15.4
2009-10	15.4

Based on current staffing levels, forecast expenditure this year on pension costs is £14.7 million for the main Department.

All the above figures relate to main Department in England and we are not able to break these figures down into the Government office regions. Information on the Department's NDPBs and executive agencies is not held centrally.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in each (i) nation and (ii) region of the UK in each of the last five years. [12473]

Robert Neill: For public opinion research and public relations activity the Department's Communication Directorate primarily uses the contracts operated by the Central Office of Information (COI). Information provided by the COI detailing the monetary value of *(a)* opinion research and *(b)* public relations work commissioned by the Department under these contracts in each of the last five years has been deposited in the Library of the House. A breakdown by nation, Government office region and London could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders have been issued in each local authority area in each year since 2006. [13739]

Grant Shapps: A list of Empty Dwelling Management Orders issued in each local authority in each year since 2006 is as follows:

Authority	*Number of EDMOs*
2006	
South Oxfordshire DC	1
2007	
Carlisle DC	1
LB Hounslow	1
LB Lewisham	5
Norwich CC	1
Peterborough CC	1
Swale BC	1
Wychavon DC	1
2008	
LB Bromley	1
LB Hammersmith & Fulham	1
Norwich CC	5
South Norfolk DC	1
2009	
Bolton BC	1
Carlisle DC	1
New Forest DC	1
Peterborough CC	1
Southend on Sea	2
South Gloucestershire Council	1
South Tyneside BC	1
2010	
Bolton BC	1
LB Lewisham	22
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	1
Stockton on Tees Council	1

Government Offices for the Regions

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has set a timetable for the closure of the Government office in each region; whether he expects existing employees will be made redundant under the present compensation terms; and if he will make a statement. [13387]

Greg Clark: On 22 July the Secretary of State announced the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining Government offices following consideration of consequential issues. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 27-28WS, on Regional Government in which we state the final decisions on the future of the Government office network, including arrangements for closure and for the redeployment or release of staff, will be made at the end of the spending review in the autumn.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether employees of the Government offices for the regions fall within the definition of surplus staff contained in the Cabinet Office's April 2008 publication Efficiency and Relocation Support Programme: Protocol for Handling Surplus Staff Situations; and if he will make a statement. [13388]

Greg Clark: The announcement made on 22 July regarding the remaining Government offices made clear that final decisions will be made at the end of the spending review. Until that time Government office staff are not regarded as being surplus.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what cost/benefit analysis he carried out prior to his decision on the future of the Government offices for the regions. [13389]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1038W.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation he undertook with trades unions on his decision on the future of the Government offices for the regions; and if he will make a statement. [13390]

Greg Clark: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government met Government office network trade union representatives prior to making his announcement on 22 July. A final decision on the future of the network will be made at the end of the spending review and discussions with Government office network trade union representatives continue as part of the spending review process.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs Ellman) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1037W.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which (1) bodies at what structural *(a)* level and *(b)* location will be responsible for economic regional development fund activity following the proposed abolition of regional government offices; [13768]

(2) functions hitherto undertaken by Government offices *(a)* will be undertaken by (i) Government departments and (ii) local enterprise partnerships and *(b)* have yet to be assigned to another body following the abolition of the Government offices for the regions. [13769]

Greg Clark: On 22 July 2010 the Government announced their intention in principle to abolish the remaining Government offices subject to consideration of consequential issues including which Government office functions need to continue. The spending review process is being used to test which activities should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective way of doing this. The final decisions on the future of the Government office network, including the transfer of on-going functions, will be announced at the end of the spending review in the autumn.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many redundancies he expects will take place *(a)* in the South West and *(b)* in England as a result of his decision to close the Government office for the south west; and what the projected cost savings are arising from the closure of the other Government offices for the regions in the first year after closure. [14087]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS, on Regional Government in which we state the final decisions on the future of the Government office network, including arrangements for the redeployment or release of Government office staff, will be made at the end of the spending review in the autumn.

We anticipate savings from any final decision to close the Government office network. The exact sums will not be clear until the end of the spending review.

Housing: Construction

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to implement his policy on not telling communities how or where to build; and what effect the implementation of this policy will have on developments on green belt land. [14122]

Robert Neill: In the coalition agreement we undertook to maintain the green belt. One major step has already been taken—on 6 July we revoked all regional strategies, thus removing regional housing targets and the pressure they created to release green belt land for development. That means the protection of green belts is in the hands of local communities. Local planning authorities should have regard to Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts", which establishes a presumption against inappropriate development on green belt land.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Kickstart funding was *(a)* allocated and *(b)* disbursed to each local authority for building projects in 2009-10. [14487]

Grant Shapps: There was no Kickstart funding allocated or disbursed to local authorities as they were not eligible to apply.

Details of all Kickstart schemes that are proceeding are shown on the Homes and Communities Agency's website.

Hyndburn Borough Council

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from Hyndburn borough council on reductions in levels of public expenditure. [14022]

Robert Neill: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not received any recent representation from Hyndburn borough council on reductions in levels of public expenditure.

Local Government Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average percentage change in local authority budgets in 2012-13 consequent upon the removal of area-based grant and changes to revenue support grant; and what estimate he has made of the percentage budget change in these circumstances for each top-tier local authority. [14031]

Robert Neill: Decisions on local authority budgets is a matter for individual local authorities. Spending plans for local government for 2011-12 onwards are being considered in the context of the spending review which will be announced on 20 October 2010.

Local Government: Investment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money *(a)* in total and *(b)* derived from the sale of council houses each local authority invested in financial markets in the most recent period for which figures are available. [13470]

Robert Neill: Local authorities in England had estimated total investments in financial markets of £20.004 million as at 31 March 2010. The data are as reported by local authorities to Communities and Local Government on the annual capital payments and receipts (CPR4) forms. I have today placed in the Library of the House a table giving details of the investments for each local authority.

It is not possible to say how much of these investments are derived from the sale of council houses as local authority investments cannot be attributed to particular sources from which they derive funds.

Local Government: Regulation

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to reduce the regulatory burden placed on local authorities by his Department. [12548]

Robert Neill: We are already taking steps to reduce the regulatory burden by abolishing comprehensive area assessment and disbanding the Audit Commission. We are also reducing the unnecessary burden of secondary legislation and other forms of regulation to remove needless bureaucracy. We have already announced various changes including consolidation of building regulations and consolidation of three sets of tree protection regulations together with streamlining of this system. And, the forthcoming Localism Bill will contain additional measures that will further free local government from central and regional control so that they can ensure services are delivered according to local needs.

The Government are committed to ensuring that new burdens on local authorities are fully and properly funded to avoid pressure on council tax.

Private Rented Housing: Regulation

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by each local authority on enforcement of the law relating to the private rented sector in each year since 2004. [13740]

Grant Shapps: This information is not held centrally. Under the Housing Act 2004, local authorities can, in many cases, recover all or part of the costs associated with enforcement action against a private landlord.

Regional Planning and Development

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff employed by *(a)* regional development agencies and *(b)* local government leaders' forums have been involved in preparing regional strategies in each region outside London in each of the last five years. [14491]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally by my Department and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Renewable Energy

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the abolition of regional spatial strategies on the amount of renewable energy produced at a local level. [13968]

Greg Clark: The regional strategies were ineffective and flawed; just as with house building, imposing top-down targets does not increase the level of sustainable development. This Government want to see real increases in renewable energy produced at the local level. We are committed to meeting the challenge of climate change and securing a low carbon future as shown in our Annual Energy Statement. As laid out in the DECC press release of 9 August 2010, the new Government have overturned the law banning councils from selling their surplus renewable energy, and will be introducing new incentives to spur local power generation from renewables, to bring in long-term income to benefit local areas and to secure local acceptance for low carbon energy projects. This is a fundamental different approach from the last Government.

Social Rented Housing: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated for the construction of social housing in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London borough of Lambeth and *(c)* Streatham constituency in 2010-11. [14166]

Andrew Stunell: The following table shows allocation provided in 2010-11 through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme, Local Authority New Build and Kickstart programmes for the provision of affordable housing. The table shows the split of allocation between social rent and low cost home ownership, so far is as follows:

£

Category	*London*	*Lambeth*
NAHP Social Rent	64,377,372	5,400,000
NAHP LCHO	13,348,511	1,941,680
LA New Build	777,484	0
Kickstart Rent	2,680,000	0
Kickstart LCHO	682,928	0

HCA does not collate information down to areas within local authorities. Allocation of funding from the NAHP is done on a bids basis so the actual allocation for the year is unknown at present. The figures in the table are to the end of August for the programme.

Travellers

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to review the powers and responsibilities of local authorities in respect of Gypsies and Travellers. [14394]

Andrew Stunell: The Government will bring into force section 318 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 which includes local authority traveller sites in the Mobile Homes Act 1983. Residents of authorised local authority traveller sites will gain improved protection against eviction which means they will be treated in the same way as those who live on other residential mobile home sites.

Councils will be given incentives through the New Homes Bonus scheme to deliver traveller sites.

The Government intend, subject to necessary impact assessments, to revoke Planning Circular 01/2006 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites and replace it with a short policy statement and light touch guidance.

The Government are working on proposals to strengthen the powers that local authorities have to enforce against breaches of planning control and to limit the opportunities for retrospective planning applications in relation to any form of unauthorised development.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Planning

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether airports required to publish master plans will be required to continue to do so following the abolition of local development frameworks. [13360]

Mrs Villiers: On 6 July 2010, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made a statement informing Parliament that regional strategies (outside London) had been revoked with immediate effect, returning decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Local plans and development frameworks have not been abolished.

The 2003 "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper, published by the previous Government, recommended that the operators of certain airports maintain a master plan document detailing their airport development proposals, to inform the content of local development frameworks. This recommendation did not constitute a mandatory requirement for airports to publish master plans.

Aviation: Security

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether passive millimetre wave and X-ray technology body scanners have been used at any UK *(a)* airport, *(b)* port, *(c)* railway station and *(d)* underground station in the last 10 years. [14366]

Mrs Villiers: Passive millimetre wave technology is not in use in the UK. Security scanners using backscatter x-ray and active millimetre wave technology are in use in London Heathrow, London Gatwick and Manchester airports for transport security purposes.

Security scanners are not currently deployed operationally at any port, railway station or underground station for transport security purposes. The Department for Transport has, however, carried out trials of security scanners at Paddington railway station in the past.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of passive millimetre wave and X-ray technology body scanners; and whether he plans to introduce them at UK airports. [14367]

Mrs Villiers: Security scanners based on active millimetre wave and backscatter x-ray technologies are already deployed in UK airports.

The effectiveness of security scanners is assessed through detailed laboratory testing carried out by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch on behalf of the Department for Transport. Passive millimetre wave security scanners have been tested but were not found to be as effective as other technologies.

Government Departments: Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues on the frequency and nature of tyre condition checks for vehicles owned by Government departments and their agencies and non-departmental public bodies; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that such guidance is observed. [13554]

Mike Penning: None. It is for each Government Department to decide how best to ensure the compliance of any vehicles it owns with the legal requirements relating to tyre tread depth.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what minimum requirements for tread depth his Department sets for vehicles owned by Government departments, their agencies and non-departmental bodies; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that these requirements are observed. [13558]

Mike Penning: Minimum requirements for tread depth are set out in the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, as amended, and vary according to type of vehicle. For cars, the minimum depth is 1.6 mm. The Department for Transport does not set different standards specifically for Government owned vehicles.

It is for each Government Department to decide how best to ensure the compliance of any vehicles it owns with the legal requirements relating to tyre tread depth.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to increase the *(a)* frequency and *(b)* quality of tyre condition checks for vehicles owned by Government Departments and their agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [13561]

Mike Penning: No.

It is for each Government Department to decide how best to check the compliance of any vehicles it owns with the legal requirements relating to tyre tread depth.

Leamside Railway Line

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken to preserve the infrastructure of the Leamside Line for potential future use. [14571]

Mrs Villiers: The land occupied by the Leamside Line is owned by Network Rail which has no plans to dispose of it. The Department for Transport has the opportunity to object to any disposal of this nature proposed by Network Rail, should this ever arise, as part of a process regulated by the Office of Rail Regulation. Planning Policy Guidance (PPG13) gives guidance on the safeguarding of transport routes and local authorities have planning powers to prevent disused railway lines from being used for development.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies have been carried out by his Department on the case for reopening the Leamside Line. [14572]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not carried out any studies on the case for reopening the Leamside Line. However a study was carried out by Tyne and Wear PTE (Nexus) in 2008 which looked at a range of options for possible use of the line and estimated the costs of reopening and likely value for money.

London Airports

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the South East Airports Task Force will consider the scope for reducing the number of transfer passengers using airports in the South East. [13907]

Mrs Villiers: Heathrow is the UK's only major hub airport and therefore the only UK airport handling large numbers of transfer passengers. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made clear the importance of securing Heathrow's hub status within the constraints of the existing runways. The South East Airports Taskforce is exploring measures to help make the most of existing infrastructure and improve conditions for all users at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. I intend to publish the taskforce's terms of reference shortly.

Railways: Construction

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are for high speed rail services to stop at Preston. [13185]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Government's vision is of a truly national high speed rail network linking the UK's major conurbations. No final decisions on the shape or phasing of the network will be taken until full public consultation has taken place. Decisions on operational specification—including service patterns—will not be taken until a later stage in the project's life cycle.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 109W, on biofuels: EU action, if he will make the acceleration of the rate of annual increases of the UK renewable transport fuel obligations conditional on mandatory sustainability criteria. [13447]

Norman Baker: The Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) contain mandatory sustainability criteria for biofuels. These include that biofuels must deliver a GHG saving of at least 35%, and must not be sourced from areas of high biodiversity, or from high carbon soils (such as rainforests or wetlands).

All biofuels will have to meet mandatory sustainability criteria in order to be counted towards meeting the targets in the RED and FQD, subject to certain exceptions. We will be consulting soon on proposals to implement the RED and FQD, including on how to ensure biofuels used in the UK meet mandatory sustainability criteria set out in the directives.

Future decisions on obligation levels under the renewable transport fuel obligation will be made in the light of available information on the impacts of higher targets on sustainability, indirect land use change and how best to deploy biomass resources across different sectors.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal road accidents have involved quad bikes in each of the last four years. [14129]

Mike Penning: The information requested cannot be identified separately. Quad bikes do not fall into any of the main vehicle categories recorded by the police in road accidents. Those involved in reported personal injury accidents are recorded, as part of the 'other motor vehicle' category along with vehicles such as ambulances, fire engines, and motorised wheel chairs.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Yorkshire of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 188W, on speed limits: cameras, how many responses he has received to his letter dated 24 June 2010 on the Government's position on speed cameras; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each response. [12202]

Mike Penning: I have received six responses to my letter dated 24 June in which I set out the Government's position regarding speed cameras. To comply with data protection requirements these have been summarised. The summary has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with his counterparts in other EU countries on labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency. [13546]

Mike Penning: None. EU Regulation No. 1222/2009 on the labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency and other essential parameters was adopted on 25 November 2009. It will come into effect from 1 November 2012 for all tyres produced from 1 July 2012. Coalition Ministers have not had any discussions with counterparts in EU member states on this regulation.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has assessed the merits of strengthening the inspection requirements for the tyre condition of school buses. [13547]

Mike Penning: No. Large passenger-carrying vehicles such as school buses must have a tread depth of at least 1 mm across three-quarters of the breadth of the tread and in a continuous band around the entire circumference.

This is checked at the annual roadworthiness test and is also enforced at the roadside by the police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. The operator of the service has a responsibility to ensure that the vehicle is always roadworthy.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between the rolling resistance of tyres and levels of fuel consumption. [13555]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not commissioned any research on the relationship between tyre rolling resistance and fuel economy. However, in the process of producing an Impact Assessment on EU Regulation 661/2008, which sets limits on the maximum permissible rolling resistance of tyres, the Department drew on research conducted by other organisations. This included a joint study by the organisations TNO Science and Industry, the Laboratory of Applied Thermodynamics and the Institute of European Environmental Policy entitled "Review and analysis of the reduction potential and costs of technological and other measures to reduce CO_2 emissions from passenger cars" and the "Tyre/road noise reference book" by Informex.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to improve the provision of information to businesses about the relationship between the rolling resistance of tyres and levels of fuel consumption. [13557]

Mike Penning: The EU Tyre Labelling Regulation 1222/2009 will require tyre suppliers to provide consumers with information on the rolling resistance, wet grip and noise performance of all tyres from November 2012. The Department for Transport will work with industry to ensure that private and business consumers are educated to enable them to understand this information and the fuel economy benefits of low rolling resistance tyres.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions he has held meetings with representatives of road safety organisations since his appointment; and whether he discussed enforcement of the tyre condition law for motor vehicles on any such occasion. [13559]

Mike Penning: Ministers regularly meet with a wide range of road safety organisations and a broad range of road safety issues are discussed at these meetings. However, the specific subject of enforcing tyre condition regulations has not been discussed in detail.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Government Car and Dispatch Agency and *(c)* other agencies and non-departmental public bodies take into account rolling resistance as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres; [13562]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that rolling resistance is taken into account by Government Departments and their agencies and non-departmental public bodies as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres. [13556]

Mike Penning: Current Government Buying Standards published on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affair's website provide Government Departments and agencies with advice on procurement and maintenance of vehicles. This already includes guidance encouraging the use of lower rolling resistance tyres. The increased availability of objective information on tyre rolling resistance, as required by EU Regulation 1222/2009, will help support these decisions. Purchasing decisions are ultimately a matter for individual Departments and agencies to take bearing in mind their own budgets and the benefits of different technologies within their specific operation.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Telephones

Mr Meacher: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what steps the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is taking to reduce the average length of time taken before telephone calls from hon. Members are answered. [13690]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has recently introduced a new call handling system. This has allowed IPSA to make a number of improvements (such as queuing calls more efficiently across a wider group of operatives) which will enable them to deal with calls more effectively and reduce the average call waiting time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering: Prices

Graham Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the increase in the House's income in 2011-12 arising from increased catering and bar prices; and whether the Commission has estimated the likely effect of those increased prices on the amount claimed by hon. Members for subsistence from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in 2011-12. [14065]

Sir Stuart Bell: It is difficult to forecast accurately the impact on take-up of services following price increases. However, the Commission intends that the increases will yield additional income of around £500,000 this year, and believes that this figure is a cautious estimate. The Commission is not responsible for Members' expenses and has made no estimate of the likely effect of the price increases on amounts which will be claimed by hon. Members for subsistence from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Public Expenditure

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of public expenditure on the arts in each year since 1997. [13999]

Hugh Robertson: DCMS expenditure on the arts since 1997 is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Arts sector support (£ million)*
1997-98	196.4
1998-99	199.7
1999-2000	229.8
2000-01	238.8
2001-02	252.9
20002-03	301.5
2003-04	367.6
2004-05	398.2
2005-06	410.6
2006-07	430.4
2007-08	425.9
2008-09	435.8

The provisional outturn figure for 2009-10 is £449.0 million, and the planned figure for 2010-11 is £443.3 million.

Copyright

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Ofcom on the Online Copyright Infringement Initial Obligations Code and (i) compliance with data protection and privacy law, (ii) the standard of evidence required to take action against alleged copyright infringers and (iii) ensuring a fair and accessible appeals process; and if he will make a statement. [13824]

Hugh Robertson: DCMS officials have been in regular contact with Ofcom as they have consulted on the Initial Obligations Code, and considered their draft in the light of the responses they received. We will continue with this dialogue as both Ofcom and Government need to be confident that the code meets the requirements of the Digital Economy Act. This includes important aspects such as data protection and privacy, and the standard of evidence. We and Ofcom have always been clear that the appeals process is an important and integral part of the process.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the total savings which will accrue to the Exchequer as a result of the closure of the regional offices of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [13576]

Hugh Robertson: The offices of the MLA's nine regional agencies were closed between January 2009 and March 2010. These closures and related savings enabled DCMS to reduce the MLA's core funding by £3.4 million per annum.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the total savings which will accrue to the Exchequer as a result of the abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [13577]

Hugh Robertson: The abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) will free up resources for front line museum services, ensuring value for money and improving transparency about where taxpayers money is spent. Officials are working with the MLA to discuss the transfer of a number of existing programmes, including Renaissance in the Regions. MLA's allocation for 2010-11 is £62.6 million, however, until discussions on the transfer of programmes have been completed, it is not possible to estimate the total scale of savings per year. Further details on this will be given in due course.

Swimming

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much expenditure will be saved in 2010-11 by ending the free swimming initiative. [13812]

Hugh Robertson: A total of £25,951,788 from the £40 million resource funding allocated for 2010-11 has been saved by ending the free swimming programme. An additional £25 million of capital funding allocated for the programme in 2010-11 has also been saved.

Television: Digital Broadcasting

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland who receive television through a relay transmitter. [12741]

Mr Vaizey: I have made no such estimate. As the independent regulator for the communications industry, Ofcom is responsible for ensuring broadcasters and transmission operators comply with their licence conditions in areas such as transmission coverage and reception, including monitoring the quality and quantity of reception received through relay transmitters.

I have therefore asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for Ceredigion and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Television: Urban Areas

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his estimate is (1) of the number of cities that could be served by city TV stations; [13373]

(2) of the minimum size of conurbation that could support a city TV station; [13374]

(3) of the number of rural areas that would be able to receive a broadcast signal from city TV stations. [13375]

Hugh Robertson: The Government would like to see as many local television services emerge as the market can provide. We are currently awaiting the outcome of Nicholas Shott's review into the commercial viability of local television, including the areas and conurbations which might support these services. We expect to publish its proposals later this autumn.

Theatre: National Income

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the contribution of the theatre sector to gross domestic product in each year since 1997. [14070]

Hugh Robertson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Luton North (Kelvin Hopkins) on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 608W.

UK Film Council

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what impact assessment he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the abolition of the UK Film Council. [14103]

Hugh Robertson: No formal impact assessment was commissioned. The basis for the decision has been the need to find savings in all areas of the Department's spending, and to ensure that every pound of public money we allocate to supporting the film industry gives the maximum benefit. This commitment to the UK film industry is why we are increasing their share of lottery funding.

SCOTLAND

Future Jobs Fund: Scotland

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions since his appointment he has held meetings with ministerial colleagues to discuss the Future Jobs Fund in Scotland. [14321]

Michael Moore: The Future Jobs Fund will be replaced next year by the Work Programme, which is being developed as part of the Government's plans to get Britain working. Existing commitments to the Future Jobs Fund are being met by the Government. I discussed the reform of the benefits system with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 28 July.

Housing Benefit

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with which *(a)* housing associations, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other organisations in Scotland he held meetings to discuss the impact of the proposed changes in housing benefit in July and August 2010. [13686]

Michael Moore: The Department for Work and Pensions has had preliminary discussions with the Scottish Government and shall continue to liaise with it and key stakeholders on the changes to housing benefit affecting the social rented sector. As part of the process to introduce the necessary legislation the Department for Work and Pensions will publish its proposals and associated impact assessments in due course.

Official Visits

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which local authority areas in Scotland *(a)* he and *(b)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State visited in August 2010. [13685]

Michael Moore: During August 2010 my colleague, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and I visited a number of local authority areas on official business. In the course of the next few weeks we will carry out more such visits.

Ports: Police

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Home Office Ministers on reductions to UK Border Agency funding for police posts at Stranraer port. [14315]

Michael Moore: I regularly discuss a range of matters with ministerial colleagues including issues around an appropriate Common Travel Area policy for Scotland.

State Visits: Vatican

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the forthcoming Papal visit. [14390]

Michael Moore: My officials are, and have been, in close and ongoing touch with officials in the Scottish Government and also other Government Departments to ensure that the visit proceeds smoothly.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what arrangements have been made for the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Scotland. [14391]

Michael Moore: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in liaison with the Holy See, have led on all the arrangements for the Papal visit. As part of the visit to Scotland, Pope Benedict will be received at the Palace of Holyrood House by Her Majesty the Queen.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether officials in his Department will be permitted to attend official events comprising part of the Papal visit during working hours. [14392]

Michael Moore: I will attend the reception being held at Holyrood House and I will be accompanied by one of my Private Office staff. The Scotland Office Director and one of the Deputy Directors have also been invited to attend. No other officials are formally attending the official events. Applications from staff for leave of absence to attend official events will be considered in the usual way.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met Cardinal Keith O'Brien to discuss the forthcoming Papal visit. [14393]

Michael Moore: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are leading on all arrangements for the Papal visit. FCO officials and Lord Patten, the Prime Minister's Personal Representative on all matters pertaining to the visit, are in regular contact with the Scottish Catholic Bishops Conference.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many payments to suppliers were made by the Government Equalities Office *(a)* within 30 days of, *(b)* over 30 days after, *(c)* over 60 days after and *(d)* over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13924]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office calculates prompt payment statistics from the date the invoice is received within the Department and not from the actual date of the invoice. On this basis the latest figures we have available are as follows:

August 2010

	Number
Total number of invoices received	81
Total paid within 30 days	81
Total paid at over 30 days	0
Total paid at over 60 days	0
Total paid at over 90 days	0

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the electro-magnetic catapult system designed for the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers will be capable of launching Dassault Rafale M. [13571]

Peter Luff: On current plans, the Queen Elizabeth (QE) class aircraft carriers do not have an electro-magnetic catapult system in their design, as their initial configuration is for the operation of Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) aircraft. The US has developed the Electro-Magnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) for their CVN-78 programme. The adaptable nature of the QE class design would enable the fitting of an electro-magnetic catapult in the future, should that become a UK requirement; this would be capable of launching a number of aircraft types, including the Rafale M.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will define the future shape and role of the armed forces and the equipment that they will need.

Armed Forces: Gloucester

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were recruited to each service through the armed forces careers centre in Gloucester in each of the last five years. [13401]

Mr Robathan: The number of personnel recruited through the armed forces careers office in Gloucester over the last five years, broken down by gender, is presented in the following table.

	Royal Navy		*Army*		*RAF*	
Financial year	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
2005-06	40	1	80	7	15	6
2006-07	47	4	99	11	23	6
2007-08	45	3	68	5	57	13
2008-09	51	6	74	7	93	15
2009-10	65	4	76	5	59	14

Armed Forces: Housing

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to improve service accommodation for soldiers and their families. [13860]

Mr Robathan: The Department will look at whether there is scope to refurbish the armed forces' accommodation from efficiencies within the Ministry of Defence.

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid to *(a)* local authorities in council tax and *(b)* Annington Homes in rent for empty properties in the defence housing estate in each of the last five years. [13995]

Mr Robathan: The amount the Ministry of Defence (MOD) pays in council tax and rent for empty Service family accommodation properties, which are normally only empty for short periods between occupants, is not separately identifiable from that for other properties.

The MOD will always be required to hold a management margin of empty properties in order to ensure that homes are available for entitled Service families when required and to allow for major improvement works to take place.

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* service family accommodation units and *(b)* single living accommodation units have been classified as unfit for occupation in each of the last five years. [13998]

Mr Robathan: All currently occupied accommodation is considered to be of a habitable standard.

Sometimes accommodation units are unable to be occupied for various reasons including demolition or major refurbishment. Our records do not separately identify such units from other unoccupied accommodation.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of accommodation for UK armed forces personnel there were in Germany at the latest date for which figures are available. [14074]

Mr Robathan: There are 13,316 single living accommodation bed-spaces and 11,664 service family accommodation properties in Germany.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces have been serving for 10 years or more. [14250]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 April 2010, the latest date for which tri-service data are available, there were an estimated 77,260 personnel who have served for 10 years or more.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which companies have re-bid for the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme; [13569]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme. [13570]

Peter Luff: The total value of the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme (WCSP) cannot be confirmed until Main Gate approval has been obtained, which is likely to be early next year. Only at that point is the Department in a position to define, with confidence, the level of performance we can deliver, at what cost, by when and at what level of risk.

BAE Systems Global Combat Systems and Lockheed Martin UK have resubmitted their tenders for the WCSP.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Manpower

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff are employed at the Atomic Weapons Establishment sites in *(a)* Aldermaston and *(b)* Burghfield. [14333][1]

Peter Luff: Atomic Weapons Establishment plc employs 4,230 staff at the Aldermaston site and 340 staff at the Burghfield site. These numbers are full-time equivalent staff employed on 27 August 2010 and are rounded to the nearest 10.

In addition some 2,000 staff are employed by contractors at these sites.

AWE Aldermaston: Fires

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps were taken to protect *(a)* Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston, *(b)* emergency service personnel and *(c)* members of the public from asbestos contamination arising from the fire at AWE Aldermaston on 3 August 2010; and what steps were taken to investigate potential asbestos contamination in the area surrounding the site of the fire. [13459]

Peter Luff: Asbestos was known to be present in the structure of the building, so, while dealing with the incident, Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Fire and Rescue crews and other emergency services wore the appropriate personal protection equipment.

A 600 metre cordon was set up around the building, which was judged by the emergency services to afford adequate protection to the public from any potential hazard.

Since the fire, thorough sampling, both on and off-site, has not detected any asbestos outside the building, so the asbestos contamination is assessed to have been limited to within the building itself. As a result, there was no risk to AWE staff or members of the public. The asbestos that was found in the building is being dealt with in accordance with established safety procedures.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which fire brigades attended the fire at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston on 3 August 2010; how many firefighting personnel attended; and how many fire appliances attended. [13465]

Peter Luff: The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) attended with four fire appliances: two fire tenders, one ambulance and one fire response vehicle. The 11 AWE fire service personnel in attendance carried out the necessary fire fighting activities.

Royal Berkshire FRS attended and took the primary operational role after being fully briefed by AWE FRS of the situation, with AWE FRS then providing a support role. Hampshire FRS, the London Fire Brigade and the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation also attended.

The total number of fire service personnel attending the incident peaked at 95, at the time of the change in shift. The number of fire appliances present peaked at 20.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date and at what time the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston notified the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service of the fire at AWE Aldermaston on 3 August 2010. [13466]

Peter Luff: The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Fire and Rescue Service were notified on 3 August 2010 at 9.06 pm. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service were notified by AWE on 3 August 2010 at 9.08 pm and put on stand-by. The AWE Fire and Rescue Service requested that the Royal Berkshire Service attend at 9.23 pm.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the AWE Off-Site Contingency Arrangements were not activated to direct the response to the fire at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston on 3 August 2010. [13467]

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[1] *[Official Report, 11 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 1MC.]*

Peter Luff: The Atomic Weapons Establishment off-site emergency plan was not put into operation because this plan covers an incident where radioactivity is present, and there was no release of radioactive material.

The plans that were implemented were those relating to the conventional explosives area where the fire occurred. As an explosives licensed facility, its emergency plan is regulated by the Hazardous Installations Directorate, part of the Health and Safety Executive.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place a copy of each document provided by AWE plc of written instructions and advice to firefighting personnel attending incidents at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in the Library. [13468]

Peter Luff: AWE plc does not produce separate written instructions and advice for firefighting personnel attending incidents. As part of the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation, the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) is required to comply with instructions issued by the Home Office, the Health and Safety Executive and the Ministry of Defence.

The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service has its own plans and documentation in respect of AWE sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield, and engages regularly with colleagues in the AWEFRS.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston have resulted in attendance of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service in each year from 2006 to 2010; and on what dates each such incident occurred. [13469][1]

Peter Luff: Since 2006, there have been four events at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston site where the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has been requested to attend. In addition, there have been three events where RBFRS acted as a stand-by resource while the AWE Fire and Rescue Service attended the event. These are summarised in the following table:

Date	*RBFRS involvement*	*Event*
3 August 2010	Attendance	Fire in explosives facility
9 January 2009	Attendance	Welding steel frame caused adjacent timber cladding and wall insulation fire
20 July 2007	Attendance	Pumping of flood water from medical building
17 October 2006	Attendance	High voltage equipment smoking and smell of burning
22 July 2006	Stand-by	Vehicle fire
29 June 2006	Stand-by	Small fire in a container during decommissioning operations
19 March 2006	Stand-by	False alarm

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Transport Regiment Royal Logistics Corps personnel are covered by the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [13805]

Mr Robathan: All Ministry of Defence civilian personnel are covered by the civil service compensation scheme.

There are 128 civilian posts within the nine Royal Logistic Corps Transport Regiments.

Cyprus: Armed Forces

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* one-bedroom, *(b)* two-bedroom, *(c)* three-bedroom and *(d)* four-bedroom properties are owned by his Department in Cyprus. [14245]

Mr Robathan: These are the following number of service family accommodation properties in Cyprus:

Bedrooms	*Number*
One	2
Two	519
Three	1,301
Four	364

Under various improvement initiatives, some 240 of these properties will be demolished by March 2011.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13292]

Mr Robathan: Since 1 May 2010 the Department began measuring performance against a target of payment within five working days, instead of the 10 day target that was introduced in October 2008.

Data available against the new target are published on the MOD's website

www.mod.uk

and provided in the following table:

Percentage of invoices paid within five days of receipt

	%
July 2010	95.36
August 2010	96.56

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13294]

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[1] *[Official Report, 11 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 2MC.]*

Mr Robathan: There is no requirement to hold centrally details of fines incurred by Ministry of Defence officials while driving service vehicles; this information could, therefore, be provided only at disproportionate cost. Officials are, however, personally liable for the payment of any such fines, which are usually paid by the Department and then recovered from the individual. Only in exceptional circumstances, such as the death or retirement of the official, might it be impossible to recover such costs.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum lift capacity of the A400M will be for the UK-purchased fleet. [13182]

Peter Luff: The UK A400M aircraft has been specified to carry a payload of 32 tonnes.

Navy: Museums and Galleries

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what purpose the National Museum of the Royal Navy was established; [13644]

(2) what the objectives are of the co-ordinating role for the National Museum of the Royal Navy in respect of *(a)* the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth, *(b)* the Royal Marines Museum, Southsea, *(c)* the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport and *(d)* the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton; [13645]

(3) for what reason the National Museum of the Royal Navy was created as the sole corporate trustee of the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth; and if he will make a statement. [13646]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* The Government welcome the establishment of the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. The Department and the Royal Navy look to the NMRN for leadership on naval heritage matters; and to ensure that the full range of our naval heritage assets are managed and employed in a coherent manner.

The NMRN is classed as a non-departmental public body (NDPB), so the questions raised by the hon. Member are a matter for the National Museum's director general.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reason *(a)* the National Museum of the Royal Navy and *(b)* his Department, on behalf of HMS Victory have indicated an intention to withdraw from common ticketing arrangements for admission to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard; [13647]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* the Mary Rose Trust, *(b)* the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust and *(c)* the Warrior Preservation Trust of the withdrawal of existing common ticketing arrangements; and if he will assess the (i) advantages and (ii) disadvantages of a takeover of the three trusts by the National Museum of the Royal Navy. [13648]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* For over a year the Ministry of Defence (MOD), together with the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), has been exploring with partners in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard how best to develop a new governance construct for the Historic Dockyard that builds on the strengths of the current arrangements, reflects current realities and provides a strong base for handling future challenges. As part of this process of change, the NMRN and the MOD have announced their intention to withdraw from the current arrangements.

The assessment of any change within the governance structure of the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is a matter for the boards of trustees of the individual attractions. I would certainly hope that the individual museums will be able to reach agreement with the National Museum on a new construct, and I understand a process of dialogue is continuing. Each trust is free to make its own decision on the nature of future arrangements in the Dockyard.

Navy: Talybont-on-Usk

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties the Royal Navy rents in Talybont-on-Usk, Powys; and if he will make a statement. [13766]

Mr Robathan: There are two properties rented by the Royal Navy in Talybont-on-Usk, Powys.

RAF St Mawgan

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future flying activities at RAF St Mawgan. [14389]

Nick Harvey: Ministry of Defence (MOD) flying activity ceased at RAF St Mawgan in 2008. The airfield was sold to Cornwall county council and now operates as Newquay Cornwall airport. There are no flying units located at the residual RAF St Mawgan site and MOD has no plans to conduct routine flying operations from the site for the foreseeable future.

Trident

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff are employed on the Trident Value for Money review; [14334]

(2) how much has been spent to date on carrying out the value for money review of Trident; and what estimate he has made of the final cost. [14335]

Mr Robathan: Two members of staff are employed full time on the Trident Value for Money review, with a number of other Ministry of Defence staff providing significant input to the review within the scope of their existing posts.

As at the end of August, the total cost of both officials assigned full time on the Trident Value for Money review is approximately £70,000. The final staff cost is estimated to be approximately £120,000.

In addition, there has been some expenditure on external assistance and technical consultancy for the Value for Money review and linked aspects of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. It has not been possible, in the time available, to determine the precise amount attributable to the Trident Value for Money review and I will write to the hon. Member in due course.

EDUCATION

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the advice he received from officials of his Department on his decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme. [8495]

Mr Gibb: Information relating to internal discussion and advice is not normally disclosed and I do not intend to do so on this issue.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether an estimate has been made of costs which will be incurred in the future by local authorities on Building Schools for the Future projects that will not now go ahead; what representations he has received from local authorities on the matter; whether he plans to provide compensation to local authorities for such costs; and if he will make a statement. [8560]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The costs incurred by individual local authorities and schools in preparing for Building Schools for the Future are not held centrally. The costs vary for local authorities depending on how they have chosen to manage their BSF projects and the stage they had reached. The Secretary of State has received representation from a number of MPs, local authorities and stakeholders. There are no plans to compensate local authorities for any costs incurred.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Merseyside

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has for the building projects at *(a)* Chesterfield High School and *(b)* Crosby High School; [4610]

(2) what plans he has to complete phase two of the Aintree Davenhill School building project. [4611]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* On 5 July, the Secretary of State announced a major overhaul of capital expenditure on schools spearheaded by the capital review led by Sebastian James. To ensure that buildings are built on budget and on time, and to ensure that a higher proportion of capital investment gets rapidly to the front line, the announcement included the ending of a major part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. BSF developments are being maintained for three groups of schools:

those in a local authority area's initial BSF scheme where Financial Close has been reached;

the first projects due to be taken forward in a local authority area where Financial Close has not been reached but where very significant work has been undertaken, to the point of appointing a preferred bidder at "close of dialogue"; and

some schools with planned projects subsequent to their authority's initial scheme—projects with Outline Business Cases approved before 1 January 2010.

This means that the projects at Chesterfield High School and Crosby High Special School have stopped. Aintree Davenhill School is a primary school, and BSF did not fund projects at primary schools. The Primary Capital Programme funds primary school projects, and its operation is different from BSF's—local authorities prioritise funds that the Department for Education allocates.

Sefton was allocated £9.6 million for 2008-11. According to information provided by the local authority, the first phase of Aintree Davenport is a £2 million refurbishment funded from its Primary Capital Programme allocation and which is due to be finished this year. The Department for Education does not hold information relating to subsequent phases of this project; it is for the local authority to make decisions about its priorities for primary investment.

Plans for future Government funding for primary schools will be included in the capital review announced on 5 July 2010 by the Secretary of State.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [2176]

Michael Gove: The Department for Education was created on 12 May 2010. In the predecessor Department for Children, Schools and Families £1.98 million was spent on non-consolidated performance pay in 2009-10. This represents 1.4% of the 2009-10 pay bill with 1,434 (52%) of staff receiving a non-consolidated performance payment. The average non-consolidated performance payment for senior civil service staff (97) was £8,732 and £851 for departmental staff (1,337).

All employees are eligible for non-consolidated performance payments, subject to strict criteria. Senior civil service non-consolidated payments are determined as part of a central performance management framework managed by the Cabinet Office. Payments for other grades are subject to the pay remit process and reflect previous pay settlements. Non-consolidated performance payments have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (e.g. pensions).

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the re-branding of his Department *(a)* on the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in total. [96]

Michael Gove: The renaming of the Department for Education cost £5,250.

Primary Education: Curriculum

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the introduction of a new primary school curriculum in September 2011; and what recent representations he has received on such a curriculum. [1215]

Mr Gibb: As I announced in my statement at oral questions on Monday 7 June, the Government do not intend to proceed with the changes to the primary curriculum that the previous Government had proposed for introduction in September 2011. We have had a number of representations about such a curriculum. As our document "The Coalition: our programme for government" makes clear, we intend to allow schools more freedom over the curriculum: we believe that the approach which the previous Government proposed was too prescriptive in terms of how teachers should teach. We were also deeply concerned about the proposed move away from teaching distinct subject disciplines at primary level.

We want to ensure that our national curriculum is a properly international curriculum that reflects the best collective wisdom we have about how children learn, what they should know and how quickly they can grow in knowledge. We want to arrive at a simple core, informed by the best international practice, which will provide a minimum entitlement for pupils and which can act as a benchmark against which parents can ask meaningful and informed questions about progress. We will announce our detailed plans for reviewing the curriculum in the autumn.

Schools: Information and Communications Technology

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the Harnessing Technology grant; and if he will make a statement. [10337]

Mr Gibb: The Harnessing Technology grant is being reduced by £100 million in the current financial year. £50 million of the reduction has been used to provide capital for Free Schools as announced on 18 June. A further £50 million is the result of the 5 July announcement on End Year Flexibility (EYF), and is to address inherited spending commitments for 2010-11, where funding was reliant on under-spends through the EYF system or additional funding from the Reserve.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what minimum notice period of the date and time of deportation her Department has set for failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants. [13218]

Damian Green: A minimum of 72 hours (including at least two working days) must generally be allowed between informing a person of their removal directions and the removal itself. The last 24 hours of this period must include a working day. There are occasions where this will not apply which officers should consider before setting removal directions.

Persons detained for removal should, where possible, be given access to telephone facilities to enable instruction of and allow contact with representatives.

Instructions can be found in the public domain in chapter 60 of the Enforcement and Instruction Guidance manual which can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement

Borders: Personal Records

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* civil servants were working on the e-Borders programme in each year since 2005. [12875]

Damian Green: The ratios of consultants and independent contractors to civil servants can be found in the following table:

	Average ratio of consultants to civil servants
2005-06	2:3
2006-07	3:4
2007-08	3:5
2008-09	2:3
2009-10	2:3
2010-11 (first three months)	2:4

The ratio of consultants and contractors to civil servants in 2010-11 is anticipated to fall further to 1:4 by October 2010.

Detainees: Children

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many forced removals have children been separated from a primary carer and remained in the care of children's services departments or in private fostering arrangements in the last 10 years. [13772]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has a policy of not separating parents from children although it will sometimes have to deal with circumstances in which such a separation has already taken place. Information about those circumstances is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and can be obtained only through examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Detection Rates

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rates for *(a)* burglary offences, *(b)* violence against the person, *(c)* murder and *(d)* all reported offences were in (i) Gloucestershire and (ii) England and Wales in the most recent year for which figures are available. [14607]

James Brokenshire: The available information relates to detection rates for offences recorded by the police and is given in the table.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Figures for the category of 'homicide' are provided rather than for murder. When a victim of homicide is discovered it is not always possible at the time of recording to determine whether the offence is one of murder or manslaughter.

Detection rates for selected offences in Gloucestershire and England and Wales, 2009-10

Detection rates

	Gloucestershire		*England and Wales*	
Offence	*All detections*	*Sanction detections*	*All detections*	*Sanction detections*
Burglary	17	17	13	13
Violence against the person[1]	46	46	45	44
Homicide[2, 3]	120	120	91	86
All offences	30	30	28	28

[1] Including offences of homicide.

[2] Includes offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

[3] Offences detected in the current year were initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason the percentage exceeds 100.

DNA: Databases

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to end the retention of *(a)* DNA samples and *(b)* fingerprints of those arrested for but not convicted of an offence; and if she will make a statement. [12091]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* We are determined to ensure that the National DNA Database only contains the DNA of those who should be on it, including those who have been convicted but whose DNA was not previously taken.

The Government will bring forward proposals in the Freedom Bill later this year to end the indefinite retention of DNA and fingerprints taken from those not convicted of crime. We will achieve this by adopting protections similar to those offered by the Scottish model for DNA retention, under which DNA from those not convicted is only held in the case of serious offences—and then only for a limited period. DNA and fingerprints taken in respect of a minor offence will not be retained at all for those who are not convicted.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are registered on the national DNA database. [12850]

James Brokenshire: As at 30 June 2010, there were 6,261,470 DNA profile records on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) taken by all UK police forces, which relate to an estimated 5,378,663 individuals. At the same date, there were 5,859,508 profile records taken by police forces in England and Wales, which relate to an estimated 5,042,201 individuals.

The number of individuals is estimated because a proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is a person's profile has been loaded on more then one occasion, for example because a person gave different names on separate arrests. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated for women with no recourse to public funds to seek refuge from domestic abuse after the end of the pilot period in August 2010. [4432]

James Brokenshire: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and was scheduled to run to the end of August 2010. On 16 July, the Home Secretary announced an extension to the pilot until the end of March 2011 with funding to support it.

The Home Office has allocated over £1.9 million to support the pilot in 2010-11. Costs of the pilot are subject to the number of eligible referrals received and so total costs for the period after August 2010 will not be known until its completion. The Government have also committed to finding a long term solution to this issue.

Firearms: Smuggling

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the security arrangements in place intended to prevent arms smuggling in the UK. [14142]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency enforce the prohibitions and restrictions on the importation of arms into the UK, working closely with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and police forces, with whom they share information and intelligence. They also collaborate on operations to disrupt smuggling attempts and to follow up detections of firearms.

In the last two years (2008-09 and 2009-10) the Border Agency has met its published target to increase its firearms seizures by 10% year on year. In 2009-10, that meant there were 296 seizures of firearms and stun guns totalling 870 items, and 56 seizures of gun parts and ammunition totalling 3,325 items. Seizure statistics for previous years are contained in HM Revenue and Customs Annual Reports.

The UK Border Agency also work with HM Revenue and Customs and other agencies to enforce export licensing controls on arms.

The latest UK National Threat Assessment (UKTA) on organised crime describes and assess the threats posed to the UK by organised criminals and considers how these threats may develop, including in relation to firearms. The UKTA 2009-10 states that there is no evidence that firearms are trafficked into the UK on a significant scale.

Forensic Science: DNA

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the number of convictions that could be overturned as a consequence of being based on low copy number DNA; and if she will make a statement. [8089]

James Brokenshire: It has never been the case that convictions have been based solely on the DNA evidence, including that obtained through the low copy number technique.

In November 2006 the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) set up a multi-agency group to consider and oversee reanalysis of all low copy number samples analysed by the Forensic Science Service prior to September 2005. This was referred to as Operation Cube. Under this operation the police service and FSS Ltd identified 4,841 samples that required re-analysis. The FSS undertook this work, free of charge, and 885 new DNA profiles were obtained. These profiles related to 342 criminal investigations across a range of crime. The results of the re analysis have been reported to police forces and they have taken action based on these results. There were 15 cases with the potential for new and significant lines of inquiry.

Only two of the 15 cases have resulted in prosecution and conviction. In both cases the reanalysed DNA evidence was made available to the defence. But in neither case did DNA play a significant part. One conviction was quashed under appeal, through evidence unconnected to DNA. An appeal in the other case was unsuccessful and I am advised that, although the DNA analysis reinforced earlier findings, the DNA evidence as a whole had a very limited impact upon the judgment. In one other case, the reanalysis led to the elimination of persons previously suspected of, but not charged with, the crime.

Identity Cards: Compensation

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the level of compensation payable to companies involved in the development of identity cards whose contracts *(a)* have been and *(b)* will be terminated. [11631]

Damian Green: Negotiations with the companies involved in the development of identity cards are ongoing and are currently planned to conclude by end of September 2010.

On conclusion of the negotiations, the Department will consult with the affected suppliers and Home Office colleagues regarding the decision to publish details of compensation sums payable.

UK Border Agency: Patrol Craft

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what illegal goods have been seized by the UK Border Agency as a result of coastline patrols in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of such goods. [13217]

Damian Green: Illicit goods with the following approximate values have been detected by cutter activity in UK and international waters over the last five years:

	£
2006	
Cocaine	4.5 million
2007	
Cocaine	30 million
2008	
Cocaine	10 million
Cannabis	4 million
2009	
Amphetamine	2 million
Cannabis	150,000
2010[1]	
Cocaine	15 million

[1] To date.

This amounts to approximately 16.5 tonnes of controlled drugs. In addition, in the same period, cutters have seized in excess of 7 million cigarettes, 40 firearms, over 200 other prohibitions including paedophile material, in excess of £700,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act and in excess of £15 million in unpaid value added tax.

Vetting

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to police forces on *(a)* policy and *(b)* practice on the retention of information on persons cleared of criminal charges and the subsequent disclosure of such information in enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. [12857]

Lynne Featherstone: Information relating to an arrest for a recordable offence, together with the subsequent outcome, is recorded on the police national computer (PNC). This includes both 'not guilty' verdicts and decisions taken by the police or Crown Prosecution Service to take no further action against an individual. It is currently the policy of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to retain this information for 100 years from the subject's date of birth.

Any intelligence or information deemed necessary for policing purposes is recorded in local police records. Such information is recorded and retained in accordance with the statutory code of practice on the management of police information

www.npia.police.uk/en/15088.htm

Operational guidance supporting the code states that records should be reviewed and disposed of when there is no longer a policing purpose for retaining them. This decision is the responsibility of the chief police officer, as the data owner. Part 5 of the Police Act 1997 requires that all information held in police records must be considered for disclosure. If, in the opinion of the chief police officer concerned, the information is considered relevant to the post applied for and ought to be included on the certificate, then it must be disclosed. Information on persons cleared of criminal charges may be disclosed on this basis, but is not routinely disclosed on a CRB enhanced disclosure.

The Government have indicated that they intend to review the criminal records regime. Terms of reference for the review are under consideration and a further announcement will be made by Ministers in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food Labelling

23. **Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to amend the food labelling standards for which it is responsible; and if she will make a statement. [14194]

Mrs Spelman: The Government have made a commitment to clear and honest food labelling. Our food labelling standards work remains focused on protecting consumers and enabling them to make informed choices, as well as ensuring a level playing field to promote the competitiveness of our food industry.

Sustainable Agriculture

24. **Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had on a strategy for sustainable agriculture in England; and if she will make a statement. [14196]

Mr Paice: Our objective is to support British farming and encourage sustainable food production. Environmentally sustainable farming is essential to protect the natural resources on which future food production depends, and to protect biodiversity and the countryside. Economically sustainable farming is essential for having a thriving farming industry. Strategic priorities are set out in the Structural Reform Plan and we will be elaborating on our sustainable agriculture objectives as we develop our departmental-business plan in October.

Agricultural Wages Board

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the Agricultural Wages Board. [13431]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State on 22 July 2010, regarding the changes to arm's length bodies, which, as part of the Government's Structural Reform Plan, made clear that the Agricultural Wages Board, and the 15 Agricultural Wages Committees, would be abolished.

Agriculture: Regulation

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on reducing the regulatory burden on farmers; and if she will make a statement. [14195]

Mr Paice: We are very aware of the need to reduce burdens on farmers, increase competitiveness and trust in business and maintain standards. The Task Force on Farm Regulation, appointed in July, will consider how to reduce regulatory burdens, and deliver risk-based and integrated compliance and inspection. It will consider all regulation that bears on farmers, including hill farmers, and have started a wide consultation to understand which issues cause farmers most concern.

Animal Products: Imports

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to monitor the entry of imported animal products and cloned animal products into the food chain. [14161]

Mr Paice: The rules governing the importation of animal products including meat, milk and genetic material are laid down in EU legislation. Each consignment must come from an approved establishment (food for human consumption) or an approved collection centre (genetic material) in an approved third country, be accompanied by animal health and public health certification as appropriate and enter the EU through a Border Inspection Post where veterinary checks are carried out to ensure that import conditions have been met.

The EU health certification does not require information to be provided on whether the product or genetic material is from a clone or the progeny of a clone. However, EU rules do not apply to imports of cloned embryos, which must be licensed under National legislation.

The Government are mindful of the concerns surrounding this emerging technology. EU Agriculture Ministers have collectively asked the European Commission to produce a detailed report on cloning by the end of 2010 and this will provide a proper basis for evidence-based decision making at EU level. We will be looking carefully at the Commission's report as we consider this issue further.

Cattle: Cloning

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanism her Department has put in place to record and trace cloned cattle and their descendants. [13588]

Mr Paice: Cattle identification and traceability requirements are harmonised and defined by EU law and are designed to protect human and animal health. There are no requirements to identify cattle as clones or descendants of clones.

However, the Government are mindful of the concerns surrounding this emerging technology. EU Agriculture Ministers have collectively asked the European Commission to produce a detailed report on cloning by the end of 2010 and this will provide a proper basis for evidence-based decision making at EU level. We will be looking carefully at the Commission's report as we consider this issue further.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations her Department has put in place in respect of cattle clone embryo and sperm imports. [13589]

Mr Paice: The rules governing the importation of bovine genetic material (embryos and semen) are laid down in EU legislation. Each consignment must come from an approved collection centre in an approved third country, be accompanied by animal health certification and enter the EU through a Border Inspection Post where veterinary checks are carried out to ensure that import conditions have been met. The EU health certification does not require information to be provided on whether the genetic material is from a clone or the progeny of a clone.

EU rules do not apply to imports of cloned embryos, which continue to require a licence under The Importation of Embryos, Ova and Semen Order 1980 as amended.

However, the Government are mindful of the concerns surrounding this emerging technology. EU Agriculture Ministers have collectively asked the European Commission to produce a detailed report on cloning by the end of 2010 and this will provide a proper basis for evidence-based decision making at EU level. We will be looking carefully at the Commission's report as we consider this issue further.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the responses to her Department's consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses; [13514]

(2) when her Department plans to respond to its consultation on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. [13515]

Mr Paice: My noble Friend Lord Henley is currently considering the large number of responses (over 12,000) to the previous Administration's public consultation exercise on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. As part of this exercise, he has recently met representatives of animal welfare organisations and the circus industry. Once all the different aspects of this issue have been considered within this Department, we will need to consult within Whitehall. We hope to be in a position to make an announcement on our proposed way forward later in the autumn.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirement there is on her Department to make payments for the whole period of an entry level stewardship or higher level stewardship agreement once it has been signed; and what the standard length of such agreements is. [14274]

Mr Paice: Provided that the conditions for payment are respected by the agreement-holder, the Department is obliged by contract law to make payments for the whole period of an Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) or Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement. Agreements that run beyond 2015 are subject to review in 2012 because under the current legal framework, the EU Commission (which part funds the payments) does not have legal authority to make payments beyond that point. The standard length of ELS agreements is FIVE years. The standard length of HLS agreements is 10 years.

Fisheries: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take in discussions at EU level to address the future sustainability of the fisheries industry in fishing communities in Scotland. [14379]

Richard Benyon: The specific management of fisheries in Scotland is a devolved matter. However, the UK shares the Commission's ambition for radical reform of the common fisheries policy to achieve healthy fish stocks, a prosperous fishing industry and a healthy marine environment.

The priorities for reform are for simplified and de-centralised decision making, moving away from the micro-management of fishermen's activities; a properly designed system of rights-based management that will give fishermen the freedom to engage in rational economic activity and applied to all, with safeguards for certain parts of the fleet where necessary; greater integration of fisheries with other marine policies, with fisheries no longer isolated from other marine users; and an end to the wasteful practice of discarding fish, with reform providing the incentives and regulatory framework to enable us to catch less but land more of it, for example replacing landing based quota with catch quotas.

Food Standards Agency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which functions of the Food Standards Agency she has responsibility. [14082]

Mr Paice: On 20 July 2010 the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs took over responsibility for policy on food labelling and composition in England, when this is not related to food safety or nutrition, from the Food Standards Agency in England. Responsibility for these policy areas in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland remain the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency in those countries, but arrangements are being considered separately by the devolved Administrations.

Food: Labelling

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on proposals at EU level to include the provision of information on food labelling about methods of animal slaughter. [13776]

Mr Paice: The Government are still considering its position on this and the other amendments to EU food labelling regulations proposed by the European Parliament.

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had on the effects on faith communities in the UK of proposals at EU level on the requirement of labelling of food from animals which have not been stunned prior to slaughter. [13777]

Mr Paice: No discussions have taken place to date on this specific requirement proposed by the European Parliament.

Food: Safety

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she last met the Secretary of State for Health to discuss food safety matters. [14081]

Mr Paice: Food safety matters remain the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency. The Secretary of State would therefore discuss these with the agency's chair or chief executive.

The Secretary of State and I met the chair, deputy chair and chief executive of the Food Standards Agency on 8 July.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the running costs for the Gangmasters Licensing Authority were in each of the last five years. [13705]

Mr Paice: The running costs for the Gangmasters Licensing Authority in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

£000

	Expenditure	*Income from fees*	*Net running costs*[1]
2005-06	2,687	—	2,687
2006-07	2,910	1,367	1,543
2007-08	3,271	1,375	1,896
2008-09	4,098	1,529	2,569
2009-10	4,125	1,271	2,854

[1] Net running costs compiled from expenditure less income from fees.

Source: Gangmasters Licensing Authority Annual Report and Accounts.

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. [13706]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is examining its network of arm's length bodies, including the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, in line with the Government's commitment to making substantial reforms, increasing accountability and reducing cost. Further announcements will be made in due course.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future operation and efficiency of the Rural Payments Agency. [12527]

Mr Paice: In my written statement of 20 July, *Official Report*, column 9WS, I reported on the findings of an independent review of the Rural Payments Agency. That statement also set out my priorities for future action in meeting the agency's key challenge, namely to deliver a better quality of service, while reducing operating costs so that both farmers and taxpayers get a better deal. Subsequently, an interim chief executive (Richard Judge) has been appointed and he attended the first meeting of the new Agency Oversight Board that I chaired on 9 August. Through that Board I will be working to ensure that the independent review recommendations are carefully considered and action is taken.

Timber: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the implementation in the UK of the EU Due Diligence Regulation on timber. [13896]

Mr Paice: Informal agreement was reached on the EU Timber Due Diligence Regulation in July; the regulation will now be formally adopted at a Council in the autumn. Once formal agreement has been reached, member states will then have 27 months to implement the regulation. We will seek to implement the regulation efficiently, in consultation with a wide range of interested parties and non-governmental organisations, whilst ensuring that we put in place an effective, robust and proportional enforcement regime which will send a strong message that illegal timber has no place on the UK market.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: International Assistance

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W, on Afghanistan: international assistance, what the evidential basis is for his statement that ISAF has no allocated funds for microgrants. [12285]

Mr Hague: Although there has been reporting which indicates that International Security Assistance Force money has been used as micro-grants, this refers to US funds. The US embassy in London has confirmed that the micro-grants of $92,394 were US Commander Emergency Response Projects funded and so my original reply stands.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Burma on the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi; and if he will make a statement. [14456]

Mr Lidington: The continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 15 of the last 21 years as a prisoner, is a deliberate policy by the military regime to isolate her from her supporters and to prevent a legitimate expression of the will of the people of Burma. Her sham trial in 2009, which extended her house arrest by a further 18 months, highlights the regime's fear of her influence as a credible political leader. The Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Dean (Jeremy Browne) raised Burma at the EU-ASEAN meeting on 26 May 2010, at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was present. He made clear that the continued detention of political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi is unacceptable. Our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises the need for the release of all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, with ministers in the Burmese military government and will continue to do so.

Chen Guangcheng

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of China on the case of Chen Guangcheng since July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [14319]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have regularly raised Chen Guangcheng's case with the Chinese authorities. We last raised the case at the EU/China human rights dialogue on 29 June as part of an individual case list. We continue to monitor this case closely, and are in regular contact with his lawyer.

COE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the members are of the UK Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; when he expects a new UK delegation to be appointed; and if he will make a statement. [14320]

Mr Lidington: The current members of the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) are as follows:

Lord Prescott
Lord Anderson
Mr John Austin
Mr Tim Boswell
Lord Chidgey
Mr Christopher Chope
Mr James Clappison
Ms Ann Clwyd
Mrs Claire Curtis-Thomas
Mr Nigel Dodds
Earl of Alexander Dundee
Mr Bill Etherington
Mr Nigel Evans
Mr Paul Flynn
Baroness Gale
Mr John Greenway
Mr Michael Hancock
Mr Oliver Heald
Mr Doug Henderson
Mr Jim Hood
Baroness Knight
Mr Bob Laxton
Mr Denis MacShane
Mr Khalid Mahmood
Mr Humfrey Malins
Mrs Christine McCafferty
Mr Alan Meale
Mr Mark Oaten
Mr Edward O'Hara
Mr Paul Rowen
Lord Tomlinson
Mr Robert Walter
Mrs Betty Williams
Mr David Wilshire

The rules of PACE state that:

> "Following parliamentary elections, the national parliament concerned ... shall make appointments to the Assembly within six months of the election. If the national parliament cannot make all such appointments in time for the opening of a new ordinary session of the Assembly, it may decide, for a period of not more than six months after the election, to be represented in the Assembly by members of the existing delegation."

A new delegation will be named when the Government receive names from the Labour party.

EU Enlargement

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Kosovo, *(c)* Serbia and *(d)* Macedonia joining the European Union. [14094]

Mr Lidington: The Government firmly support EU membership for all the countries of the Western Balkans region, once they meet the EU's robust membership criteria. Enlargement of the EU will help to create stability, security and prosperity across Europe on a firm foundation of democracy, the rule of law and shared values. The prospect of EU membership is an opportunity for the governments and citizens of the Western Balkans to entrench stability and prosperity and turn the page on the difficult chapters of the past. It requires concrete steps to meet the criteria set by the EU in a genuine merit-based process.

This autumn, the European Commission will publish its opinion on Albania's application for EU membership. It will also issue progress reports for Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo, detailing the progress made in their relationship with the EU and where further reform is still required. The Government will continue to encourage all countries of the Western Balkans to show sustained effort and political leadership in overcoming problems and implementing the reforms required to meet the criteria for membership.

Indonesia: Foreign Relations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of UK relations with Indonesia; and if he will make a statement. [14289]

Mr Jeremy Browne: UK relations with Indonesia across a range of shared priorities are strong bilaterally, through the EU and in our partnership in multilateral forums such as the G20 and UN. We are determined to strengthen relations yet further as part of our initiative to enhance engagement with the world's emerging powers. As the fourth most populous country in the world, with strong democratic institutions and a fast growing economy, Indonesia is taking a larger role on the world stage. The UK is the third largest investor in Indonesia. There is a regular flow of ministerial and senior official visitors in both directions. There were six UK ministerial level visits to Indonesia in 2009. Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa visited London for the Afghanistan Conference in January 2010 and I met senior Ministers in Jakarta in July 2010.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the development of Iran's nuclear programme. [14290]

Alistair Burt: We continue to be greatly concerned about Iran's nuclear programme. The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued a number of reports on Iran, all making clear that Iran had shown no sign of suspending its enrichment-related activities and continued to stockpile uranium, as required by six UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and numerous IAEA resolutions. The estimates in his May 2010 report showed Iran had produced 2,427 kg of low enriched uranium since the start of operations in February 2007, and that Iran had also produced a total of 5.7 kg of uranium enriched to nearly 20%, a significant step towards weapons grade enrichment.

Pope Benedict XVI

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on arrangements for the visit to the UK of Pope Benedict XVI; and if he will make a statement. [14262]

Mr Bellingham: The Government have been working closely with the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland on arrangements for Pope Benedict XVI's visit, which are now well in hand.

We greatly look forward to Pope Benedict's visit. The Holy See is a valuable partner on many of the foreign policy and international development issues that most affect citizens worldwide. These include tackling poverty, tackling climate change, and preventing and resolving conflict. This visit offers an important opportunity to strengthen ties between the UK and the Holy See on these issues.

Serbia: EU Accession

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for Serbia's accession to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [13516]

Mr Lidington: The Government fully support EU accession for all the countries of the Western Balkans region, including Serbia, once they meet the robust criteria set by the EU for membership. Serbia has the capacity and potential to make good progress towards meeting these criteria, if it chooses to do so.

Following the latest report of the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in June 2010, EU member states noted that Serbia had maintained the level of its co-operation with the tribunal and agreed to submit Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU to their Parliaments for ratification. The Government continue to urge the Serbian authorities to maintain maximum effort and commitment in their ICTY co-operation, and will assess this at each stage of Serbia's accession process.

More broadly, in order for Serbia to progress along the path to EU accession, the Government will need to be confident that it is committed to all aspects of the conditions-based accession process—including the requirements of regional co- operation—in a way which would allow all countries in the region, including Kosovo, to realise their own European perspectives.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the surrender of Ratko Mladic to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia as a precondition for the commencement of accession negotiations between the EU and Serbia. [13517]

Mr Lidington: The UK, along with all other EU member states, has consistently made clear that achieving and maintaining full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is essential for Serbia's progress towards EU membership. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined this during his visit to Belgrade on 31 August.

Following the latest report of the Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY in June 2010, EU member states noted that Serbia had maintained its co-operation with the Tribunal and agreed to submit Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU to their Parliaments for ratification.

The Government will continue to keep Serbia's co-operation with ICTY under review, including at each stage of its EU accession process, in order to ensure that it continues to co-operate fully with the Tribunal.

Syrian Arab Republic: EU External Trade

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on EU trade with Syria. [14288]

Alistair Burt: We welcome the steps that have been made towards finalising the EU-Syria Association Agreement. The EU high representative is currently leading on discussions with Syria about signing the agreement.

The agreement will allow us to use the EU's dialogue with Syria to pursue issues of concern, which include human rights and counter-proliferation.

Syrian Arab Republic: Foreign Relations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of UK relations with Syria; and if he will make a statement. [14286]

Alistair Burt: The UK has full diplomatic relations with Syria and we assess that Syria is an important player in the region. We will work to continue our firm, frank and frequent dialogue with the Government in Damascus. However, we remain concerned about the human rights situation in Syria, and about reports of Syrian facilitation of weapons to Hezbollah. I have made these concerns known to my Syrian counterpart during my visit to the region in July.

Syrian Arab Republic: Nuclear Power

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is within the International Atomic Energy Agency on inspection of Syria's nuclear programme. [14287]

Alistair Burt: The UK strongly supports the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) investigations on Syria and welcomes the latest report by the director general. It is important that Syria co-operates fully with this international body and ensures that the IAEA can complete its investigations.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [13003]

Mr O'Brien: The following figures indicate the average density per employee for the combined net internal area (NIA) of our London and East Kilbride offices. We are not able to provide this information prior to our move to 1 Palace street in 2001.

	NIA per head
2003	16.46
2004	16.37
2005	15.23
2006	15.85
2007	16.44
2008	17.55
2009	17.31
2010	16.25

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [13060]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not hold consultancy rates on a central register. To gather this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12802]

Mr O'Brien: We are unable to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12821]

Mr O'Brien: It is not possible to provide the requested information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Any such expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

WORK AND PENSIONS

EU Agency Workers Directive

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects on employers of the EU Agency Workers Directive coming into force. [14151]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

An impact assessment (IA) on the agency workers regulations was published when they were laid by the previous Government in January 2010. This considered a range of possible dynamic and financial effects on business. The IA noted that higher costs associated with hiring temporary agency workers may manifest themselves in terms of price (wages) and/or quantity (number of agency workers hired) adjustments, and that the nature of the effect is likely to vary by sector or occupation.

Poverty: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has forecast the effect of the proposals in the 2010 Budget on levels of *(a)* child and *(b)* pensioner poverty in (i) Wales and (ii) the Bridgend County Borough Council area in each of the next five years. [5946]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Budget announced a package of reforms to tackle unaffordable spending and support the most vulnerable as set out on page 34 of the Red Book. Measures announced at Budget will have no measurable impact on child poverty over the next two years.

Estimates of the impact of Budget tax and benefit measures on the number of children in relative poverty are only available at the UK level, as lower geographical disaggregations do not provide sufficiently robust results. Estimates post 2012-13 are not available due to greater uncertainty surrounding longer term economic forecasts underpinning the modelling.

The Budget announced reforms to the uprating rules for the basic state pension. The earnings link for the basic state pension will be restored from April 2011, with a triple guarantee that it will increase by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%, benefiting 11 million pensioners in the UK. CPI will be used as the measure of prices, but the Government will increase the basic state pension in April 2011 by at least the equivalent of RPI. In 2011, in the event that the basic state pension is increased by more than earnings, under the terms of the triple guarantee, the Government's intention is that, as a minimum, single pension credit recipients will benefit from the full cash value of this increase. These changes will have a positive impact on pensioners' incomes.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Mr David: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he had with the First Minister of Wales on the date of the referendum on the alternative vote prior to 5 July 2010. [11789]

Mr Wallace: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received from the devolved Administrations on the timing of the referendum on the alternative vote system. [13186]

Mr Harper: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and I have held no direct discussions with the First Minister of Wales on the date of the proposed referendum on the parliamentary voting system. However, the Secretary of State for Wales and the First Minister of Wales have had discussions on this issue.

The First Minister for Scotland, the right hon. Alex Salmond MSP, wrote to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister on 9 July regarding the proposed date for the referendum. A response was sent in July.

The First Minister of Wales, the right hon. Carwyn Jones AM, wrote to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister on 7 July and 12 July. Mr Jones wrote again to the Secretary of State for Wales and the Deputy Prime Minister on 13 July and 5 August. Responses to these letters were sent on 21 July and 28 August.

The First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, the right hon. Peter Robinson MLA and Martin McGuinness MP MLA, wrote to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Deputy Prime Minister on 28 July. A response was sent on 24 August.

Copies of all of these letters are being placed in the Library.

It was right that we announced the Government's proposals for the referendum to Parliament first. Following that announcement, we have been working and will continue to work closely with the Electoral Commission and others to make sure that the devolved elections, the local elections in England and the referendum are run effectively on 5 May next year.

Elections

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what elections are planned to be held on 7 May 2015 in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [13382]

Mr Harper: The Fixed-term Parliaments Bill, introduced to Parliament on 22 July 2010, would provide for the next parliamentary general election to be held on 7 May 2015. Existing legislation provides that elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales are scheduled to be held on that day.

In addition there are elections scheduled in 36 Metropolitan Districts, 194 Shire Districts and 49 Single Tier (Unitary) Districts in England. A list of all the relevant Districts has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Four Mayoral elections are also scheduled.

Electoral Register

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to increase levels of voter registration. [13430]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Commission reported in March 2010 that the completeness of Great Britain's electoral registers remains broadly similar to the levels achieved internationally. However, we are committed to taking steps to improve levels of registration. As part of the Government's commitment to speed up the introduction of individual electoral registration we are investigating allowing electoral registration officers to compare their electoral registers against existing public authority databases to identify individuals who are not on the register and to encourage them to register.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what environmental effects his Department has identified from the use of bioliquids in *(a)* electricity generation and *(b)* combined heat and power; [13620]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of bioliquids produced from wastes and residues compared to those produced from virgin crops in improving sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. [13621]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* DECC commissioned a report into the comparative life cycle analysis of a number of liquid feedstocks that can be used as bioliquids. This can be found on the website of the National Non-Food Crops Centre:

http://www.nnfcc.co.uk/metadot/index.pl?id=10478;isa=DBRow;op=show;dbview_id=2539

This indicates that high greenhouse gas savings can be achieved in heat, electricity and transport from fuels derived from used cooking oil and we consider that these provide a more sustainable way to make renewable energy than virgin oils, offering higher greenhouse gas savings.

The Department is conducting further work to consider how best to support technologies such as those using wastes and residues through the renewables incentives and has already held discussions with industry in order to further work and seek further evidence.

We have launched a consultation on amendments to the renewables obligation

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/ro/ro.aspx

and will be engaging with stakeholders on changes to the renewable transport fuel obligation to ensure our incentives meet the requirements of the renewable energy directive, including the sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids.

We are working closely with other Government Departments to achieve a co-ordinated approach to the use of bioliquids across the sectors in which used cooking oil is a feedstock.

Carbon Emissions: Local Government

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that local councils involve local people in implementing their carbon reduction plans. [13750]

Gregory Barker: Local authorities need to show strong leadership and accountability in cutting emissions from their own estates and operations and those arising within their areas.

The coalition Government are currently running a programme of low carbon framework pilots to explore ways of building capacity in local authorities in support of this objective. It is important to understand what the barriers to action are and how we are best placed to overcome these together as part of the Big Society. Behavioural change and the role of individuals and communities are an inherent part of this.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will provide additional financial and technical support for local councils to meet local carbon reduction targets. [13754]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are aiding local action by taking forward the local carbon framework pilots programme (LCFs) until the end of this financial year.

The LCF programme will enable baseline work on emissions data to be undertaken, enable innovative approaches to carbon reduction to be trialled, and technical and practical expertise to be shared between central and local government, business and communities.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will encourage each local council to set a cap on carbon dioxide emissions taking into account *(a)* scientific evidence on the level of reductions required to avoid dangerous climate change and *(b)* local circumstances. [13755]

Gregory Barker: We expect the local carbon frameworks pilot programme to encourage local initiatives to reduce emissions without imposing central burdens on local authorities. We expect and will encourage local authorities to develop stretching ambitions on CO_2 emissions. Local circumstances greatly influence what it is possible to achieve and make it inappropriate to impose rigid top down targets, though it is important to ensure there are the right governance structures in place to ensure accountability.

Coal: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the European Commission proposal to phase out subsidies for hard-coal industries in the EU by 2014. [14482]

Charles Hendry: The Government's main policy objective in relation to the coal industry is to ensure that the United Kingdom and the European Union are enabled to make best use of a valuable natural resource which continues to make an important contribution to security of energy supplies, where it is economically viable and environmentally acceptable to do so.

Coal production was subject to an industry-specific state aid regime under the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty. This expired in July 2002 and was replaced by Regulation 1407/2002, which expires on 31 December 2010. The Regulation has continued to permit closure, operating and mining legacy aid. It also introduced investment aid to support qualifying projects to maintain access to reserves at potentially viable mines; such projects remain ineligible for support under the general state aid regime.

UK coal producers received around £162 million of operating aid during 2000-02 and £53 million of investment aid during 2003-08, but the Government are not currently paying any subsidy for coal production.

In 2009 the European Commission consulted on the post-2010 regime, stating its preference for bringing the coal mining industry within the general state aid regime. This would mean an end to operating, closure and legacy aid, while mining and other coal-related projects would become eligible in principle to receive other state aid products.

The UK Government broadly support this objective, but also recognises the need to provide limited transitional arrangements from 1 January 2011, subject to strict closure timetables and progressive reductions in payments, for member states which have already given commitments to provide closure aid after that date.

Closure aid is an economic and social policy measure designed to help former miners and their communities through orderly management of mine closures with support for retraining, local economic diversification, etc. It has no effect on total coal use or related emissions levels in either the relevant member state or the EU as a whole. This is because, in broad terms, coal produced by mines receiving closure aid merely displaces coal which would otherwise be imported to meet overall demand; and because emissions from coal used for energy production, industrial processes, etc., whatever its origin, are subject to existing EU legislation (e.g. LCPD) and the EU Emissions-Trading System.

Energy Supply

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the minimum number of days stock of *(a)* natural gas, *(b)* oil, *(c)* petrol and *(d)* diesel required for the UK to maintain an acceptable level of energy security; [14355]

(2) how many days stock of *(a)* natural gas, *(b)* oil, *(c)* petrol and *(d)* diesel are routinely stored within the UK. [14356]

Charles Hendry: The information is as follows:

Natural Gas

The Government do not provide estimates of minimum stock levels of natural gas needed to maintain security of supply.

Moreover, the UK does not have a "routine" level of gas in stock; stock levels are determined by the market. Gas companies typically build stocks progressively from around April until October/November and then draw on their stocks during winter. From 1 October 2009 to 5 September 2010, the period available, the UK held average stocks equivalent to about 10 days of consumption, with a peak of about 22 days in summer 2009, and a minimum of about one days in winter.

Petroleum products

Under EU Council directive 2006/67/EC, member states of the European Union (EU) are required to hold stocks of oil and oil products equivalent to 90 days of national inland consumption. However, because the UK is a producer of crude oil its obligation is reduced by 25% to 67.5 days.

In June 2010, the latest period for which data are available, the UK held about 91 days worth of oil and oil products.

Kyoto Protocol

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the implications for the UK of a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. [13714]

Gregory Barker: Given that the Kyoto Protocol is an already-established legally-binding framework, the EU, and therefore the UK, has already adopted all the requirements in EU law for the next commitment period of the Protocol. Continuing with the KP approach for a second commitment period would therefore not have any implications for the UK. However, certain elements of the KP are likely to change as the current round of United Nations Framework convention on Climate Change negotiations progresses. Particularly, the mitigation target to which the UK is subject is likely to be higher than in the first commitment period, though ultimately the level will depend on the outcome of the negotiations.

Microgeneration: Finance

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what incentives his Department provides to members of the public to generate their own electricity. [13399]

Charles Hendry: The Feed-in Tariff Scheme incentivises small-scale, low-carbon electricity generation of up to 5MW incapacity.

The scheme aims to deliver rates of return of approximately 5-8% for investors with botn the generation tariffs and export tariffs linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). Additionally, householders who use renewable technologies to generate electricity mainly for their own use will not be subject to income tax on their FITs revenue.

Nuclear Power: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the policy of his Department is on the provision of subsidies for the construction of new nuclear power stations. [14131]

Charles Hendry: The coalition agreement makes it clear that there will be no public subsidy for new nuclear power stations.

Nuclear Power: Insolvency

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether an assessment has been made of the merits of creating a special administration regime for a nuclear plant operator which becomes insolvent and is unable to maintain its nuclear plants; and whether his Department has discussed the matter with the Insolvency Service. [14080]

Charles Hendry: The Department has had discussions with the Insolvency Service over whether, in addition to the relevant provisions of the Energy Act 2008, a special administration regime for nuclear operators is required. It has concluded, for existing nuclear operators, that such a regime is not required but will keep the matter under review given the potential for new nuclear build.

Nuclear Power: Scotland

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the Scottish nuclear energy industry to *(a)* energy security and *(b)* carbon dioxide reduction targets. [13629]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 8 September 2010]*: The Department does not assess the contribution of nuclear power to energy security and carbon dioxide reduction on a sub-national basis.

Sub-national electricity statistics, including nuclear generation in Scotland, are published annually in Energy Trends. The latest figures are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/trends/trends.aspx

These show that in 2008, nuclear stations in Scotland generated 15.1 TWh of electricity (around 4% of total UK generation).

Nuclear Reactors: Thorium

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of the use of thorium-based nuclear reactors. [13659]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 8 September 2010]*: DECC officials maintain an oversight of developments in future reactor designs and thorium continues to be a possibility for use as a fuel in nuclear power reactors. This involves the Department working with technical experts both from industry and academia and in this respect I am making arrangements to host a meeting with Professor Ian Fells to explore topics of this nature.

Ultimately it is for the industry to propose what type of fuel to use in any future nuclear reactors, the designs of which would be subject to independent regulatory assessment and acceptance. At present the UK safety and environment regulators are undertaking a generic design assessment process on two new nuclear reactor designs that use uranium oxide fuel. No proposals have been made for reactor designs using thorium-based nuclear fuel, but we would of course consider a proposal if one was to come forward.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department is making in establishing a full system of feed-in tariffs for small-scale low-carbon electricity technologies. [13845]

Gregory Barker: The feed-in tariff scheme (FITs) for small scale low carbon electricity (up to 5MW) has been in place since April 2010. As we set out in the Coalition programme for government, we are committed to establishing a full system of FITs in electricity. As part of this, we are currently looking at features of the FITs scheme to see what changes we may need to make.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals for the support of renewables from funds raised by means other than taxation. [13535]

Charles Hendry: The Renewables Obligation (RO) and Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) for the support of renewable electricity generation are already funded direct by electricity suppliers, rather than from taxation. However, it is important to note that these mechanisms impact on consumers' bills, so we need to make sure that we deliver value for money in supporting renewables by whatever means.

Renewable Energy: Local Government

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expressions of interest he has received from local authorities following the removal of restrictions on local authorities selling renewable electricity to the grid; and whether there will be any restriction on how such revenue can be spent. [13511]

Charles Hendry: Seven local authorities have sent emails to the address provided in the Secretary of State's recent letter announcing the removal of restrictions on their sale of electricity from renewable sources.

There will be no restriction on how local authorities may spend the resulting revenue, as long as it fits within their remit as authorities.

HEALTH

NHS Commissioning Board

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the NHS Commissioning Board will differ from existing strategic health authorities in their healthcare commissioning role. [14405]

Mr Simon Burns: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are currently responsible for commissioning some highly specialised services. However, the majority of national health service health care is commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs). The role of SHAs has primarily been one of system and performance management, supporting PCTs in their commissioning capacity, promoting choice and competition as well as monitoring NHS provider trusts.

As set out in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" the Government intend to create a more autonomous and accountable NHS—with greater clarity about the roles and responsibilities of different organisations for provision and commissioning. The proposed NHS Commissioning Board will therefore be responsible for ensuring an effective and transparent system of NHS commissioning which drives improvements in quality of patient care and health outcomes, maximises opportunities for patients to exercise choice and is underpinned by effective patient and public engagement.

The majority of NHS health care will in future be commissioned by consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. The Commissioning Board would hold GP commissioners to account for outcomes and financial management rather than for delivering top-down, process-driven targets.

The Commissioning Board will also have direct responsibility for commissioning those services which it would be less appropriate for GP consortia to commission. We propose that this will include all specialised services, including those currently commissioned by PCTs, as well as primary care, prison health and maternity services. It would have no responsibilities in relation to NHS providers (such as hospital trusts), other than in relation to those services it is directly responsible for commissioning.

Ambulance Services: South West

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the Great Western Ambulance Service of the relocation of its headquarters to Chippenham has been. [13395]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally.

However, the hon. Member may wish to contact the Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust direct for more information.

Cancer: Eyes

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the time taken for people diagnosed with eye cancer to be seen by a consultant; what steps he is taking to reduce the time; and if he will make a statement. [14332]

Mr Burstow: No estimate has been made of the time taken for people with eye cancer to be seen by a consultant. The statistics held centrally do not distinguish between different types of head and neck cancer as a result. In the last period for which statistics are available (Quarter 1 2010-11), 96.1% of patients with suspected head and neck cancer, including cancers of the eye, were seen within two weeks of referral from primary care.

As part of the of the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) review, we are examining the cancer waiting times commitments put forward in the Cancer Plan (2000) and the CRS (2007). This is to ensure they remain clinically appropriate and focus on what is most important to patients and their families. We aim to publish an updated strategy in the winter.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that effect them by *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility. [12265]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to ensuring that the public have the opportunity to participate in shaping and developing policy, and always undertakes to seek the views of those who are likely to be affected by changes of policy and groups representing them.

As part of this commitment, the Department subscribes to the Government Code of Practice on consultations. This makes clear that consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible and effectively targeted. Where relevant this would include younger people and thought is always given to whether alternative versions of consultation documents should be produced which could be used to reach a wider audience.

A copy of the Code of Practice has already been placed in the Library and is available online at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf

We have engaged and continue to engage with children and young people on a range of issues in a number of ways. For example, the Department is in regular contact with YoungMinds, a voluntary sector organisation that deals specifically with the mental health issues of children and young people. YoungMinds have established a group called Very Important Kids who contribute their views through their regional networks into how mental health services for young people can be improved.

Diabetes: Drugs

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the recommendation of the Commission on Human Medicines on the diabetes medication Avandia was not implemented throughout the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [14410]

Mr Simon Burns: Avandia (rosiglitazone) is licensed on a Europe-wide basis by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), not directly by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). In response to emerging evidence, it has been necessary to review the balance of risks and benefits of this medicine throughout Europe.

To inform its input into the European debate the MHRA has conducted its own assessment of the safety of rosiglitazone and sought the advice of the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). The CHM advised in July 2010 that the risks of rosiglitazone outweigh its benefits and that it no longer has a place on the United Kingdom market. In addition, the CHM considered action should be taken promptly and ideally within the appropriate European Union framework.

Emerging data on rosiglitazone have been evaluated, and updated advice, including new restrictions on use and warnings, has been issued to prescribers, via the Drug Safety Update bulletin. Following the CHM advice in July, the MHRA contacted health care professionals to provide clear advice on the need to closely follow the current prescribing advice regarding the use of rosiglitazone and to consider alternative treatments where appropriate.

The MHRA is contributing to the current European assessment of the balance of risks and benefits of rosiglitazone, which is anticipated to conclude this month.

Drugs: Generic Substitution

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department will publish its response to the consultation on proposals to implement generic substitution in primary care further to the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme 2009; [14063]

(2) how many responses to his Department's consultation on proposals to implement generic substitution in primary care further to the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme 2009 were in favour of Option 1 of the three options presented. [14064]

Mr Simon Burns: Responses to the consultation are currently being considered. In accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Consultation', a summary of responses and the Department's response to the consultation, including next steps, will be published soon. The summary of responses will specifically address how many responses were in favour of the three options presented.

Epilepsy: Nurses

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist epilepsy nurses *(a)* left the NHS and have not been replaced, *(b)* were reassigned to other inpatient duties and *(c)* were in positions which are under review since 22 June 2010. [13820]

Mr Burstow: Information on the number of specialist epilepsy nurses that have left the national health service and not been replaced, were reassigned to other in-patient duties, and were in positions which are under review, are not collected centrally. Local health bodies have responsibility for commissioning services to meet the needs of those living with epilepsy. This includes the recruitment of specialist nurses.

Gender Recognition

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the choice of treatment and provider in some mental health services referred to on page 52 of the White Paper, Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS, will apply to gender identity services; and whether commissioning for gender identity services will fall under the responsibility of the new NHS Commissioning Board. [13488]

Mr Burstow: The introduction of choice of treatment and provider in some mental health services will begin from April 2011, and this will be extended wherever practicable. As set out in the White Paper, the NHS Commissioning Board will have responsibility for commissioning specialised services, which will include gender identity services.

General Practitioners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's proposals for GP commissioning, who will be responsible for the funding of GP-led health centres. [14407]

Mr Simon Burns: Our overarching principle is that commissioning decisions should, wherever possible, reflect the views of local clinicians and the local public. Under the proposals set out, our NHS White Paper: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", an NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning primary care services for registered patients, whilst general practitioner (GP) consortia will be responsible for commissioning urgent care. The responses to the consultation on Commissioning for Patients, as part of the wider proposed changes in the White Paper, will enable us to proceed to set out the full details of how GP-led commissioning will work. We urge anyone who has any concerns to respond to the consultation by 11 October.

General Practitioners: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's proposals for GP commissioning, what penalties practices will be required to pay in year *(a)* one and *(b)* two of actual budgets if they overspend. [14406]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the proposals in the White Paper, the responsibility for managing commissioning budgets will rest with general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia, rather than with the individual practices that make up a consortium. The White Paper and the consultation document on 'Commissioning for Patients' seek views on the proposal that a proportion of GP practice reward should, however, be linked to the performance of its consortium, both in terms of the outcomes that the consortium achieves for patients and in terms of its financial performance. These arrangements will be developed following discussion with the British Medical Association in the light of consultation responses.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP practices will be reimbursed for rent under his Department's plans for GP commissioning; and what his policy is on the funding of primary care premises. [14409]

Mr Simon Burns: The arrangements for reimbursement of general practitioner premises costs are set out in "The NHS Premises Costs Directions 2004". This document has been placed in the Library, and the move to NHS Commissioning Board responsibility for contracting with primary care would not alter these arrangements.

General Practitioners: Prescriptions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP practices will be permitted to dispense prescriptions under the new arrangements for GP commissioning. [14408]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner practices currently provide dispensing services to their patients under arrangements set out in the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005.

The proposed reforms in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", would not in themselves affect dispensing practices any differently from non-dispensing practices.

Haemophilia Alliance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are for the programme of bi-annual meetings between his Department and the Haemophilia Alliance; and if he will make a statement. [13756]

Anne Milton: The terms of reference for the bi-annual meetings between the Department and the Haemophilia Alliance are as follows:

> to share information between the United Kingdom Health Departments and the Haemophilia Alliance and consult on all aspects of treatment and care relating to inherited bleeding disorders;
>
> to ensure there is effective communication between patient representatives, health and social care professionals, and policy officials on health and social care matters of mutual interest and concern;
>
> to ensure links are developed between this group and other groups responsible for advising Government on blood safety issues; and
>
> in fulfilling the above, the group recognises that health is a devolved matter, and therefore policy and practice may vary in different parts of the UK.

Two meetings have been held so far and the next one will be held in November 2010.

Health Professions: Insurance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to be in a position to respond to the Finlay Scott Review on indemnity insurance as a condition of registration for health care professionals. [14455]

Mr Simon Burns: Finlay Scott has delivered his report "Independent review of requirement to have insurance or indemnity as a condition of registration as a healthcare professional" to the Secretary of State and other United Kingdom Health Ministers. This was published on the Department's website on 14 July, at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117454

The Government welcome the report which contains a comprehensive appraisal of the issues and clear recommendations. The report requires careful consideration and we intend to publish a substantive response in due course, after Ministers in all four UK countries have had the opportunity to consider its content.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to improve standards of health of people with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement; [13846]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to improve the training of NHS healthcare professionals for interacting with patients with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement; [13847]

(3) how many people with a learning disability received an annual health check in each year since 2008; [13848]

(4) when his Department plans to respond to Professor Jim Mansell's report Raising our Sights; and if he will make a statement; [13849]

(5) what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of learning disability liaison nurses; and if he will make a statement; [13850]

(6) whether the new NHS Commissioning Board referred to in the Health White Paper will require GP consortiums to provide annual health checks for people with a learning disability; [13851]

(7) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that GP consortiums are able effectively to commission services for people with a learning disability; [13855]

(8) what progress has been made in extending the use of patients passports for people with a learning disability in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [13857]

Mr Burstow: This Government are committed to supporting people with learning disabilities and in particular to improving health outcomes of people with learning disabilities. As our White Paper for the national health service makes clear, this Government's ambition is for health outcomes—and quality health services—as good as any in the world. And that means we are committed to providing a high quality service for everyone—especially those who are more disadvantaged and have experienced real inequity in the past.

Like all other patients, people with learning disabilities will be at the heart of everything. They will have more choice and control to shape health services around them, enabled by easy access to the information they need and want. They (or their families and advocates) will be involved in decisions about their care and we expect NHS professionals to ensure that they fully involve people with learning disabilities and their family carers and enable them to be part of that decision-making process.

We are pressing ahead with action to address the health inequalities which people with learning disabilities experience, especially a new confidential inquiry and Public Health Observatory. Representatives from Mencap, the National Forum for people with learning difficulties, and the National Valuing Families forum are on the group scrutinising progress on these.

Annual health check figures are now on the Improving Health and Lives: Learning Disabilities Observatory website at

www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk

In 2008-09 27,011 people with learning disabilities were reported to have received a health check (23% of those people with learning disabilities known to services). In 2009-10 the number more than doubled to 58,919, (43% of those known to services). There is, though, wide variation between primary care trusts and there is still more to do. The functions of the new NHS Commissioning Board have still to be finalised pending the outcome of the consultation which closes on 11 October. But we expect that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission the family health services that general practitioners (GPs) provide.

"Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" sets out further details on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning, providing the basis for fuller consultation and engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public. We intend that GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the majority of NHS services, including elective hospital care and rehabilitative care, urgent and emergency care (including out-of hours services), most community health services and mental health and specialist learning disability services. Consortia will be responsible for meeting prescribing and associated costs. It will be for consortia to decide on a case-by- case basis whether to commission services themselves, or to make appropriate arrangements with another commissioning organisation (for instance a lead consortium). The NHS Commissioning Board will develop a commissioning outcomes framework which measures health outcomes. The Government are considering how the outcomes framework will measure improved health outcomes, including for people with learning disabilities.

The Department is working through strategic health authorities (SHAs) to review and improve training for healthcare staff to ensure that they give appropriate support to people with learning disabilities. SHA Education Commissioners are taking action to review the training provision for healthcare staff and people with learning disabilities. Staff in all GP practices delivering annual health checks have had training in meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities. The Royal College of General Practitioners is due to publish additional training materials for GPs later this autumn on getting health checks right for people with learning disabilities.

The Department is looking very carefully at the detailed recommendations set out in this report and how these support our objectives to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities who have complex needs and their families. The elements of good service and good practice examples included in this report sit very clearly within the programme of work which government is leading to support independent living for people with learning disabilities and to support local service planning and commissioning to meet identified needs in their locality.

The Department has encouraged NHS bodies and local authorities (LAs) to set up these posts and promoted examples of good practice in involving learning disability acute hospital liaison nurses such as the Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton. We have also encouraged NHS bodies to use patient passports for people with learning disabilities as an important way of ensuring that their health needs are all in one place. The Learning Disability Partnership Boards have reported some good progress on improving health outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

The national director for learning disabilities has written to all NHS and LA chief executives in July to remind them of the recommendations in the ombudsman's report "Six lives: the provision of public services to people with learning disabilities" and to ask them to report on progress in meeting those recommendations. We will shortly publish a response on progress against those recommendations.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* trends in numbers of adults with learning disabilities and *(b)* the effects of such trends on future funding requirements for services for such people; and if he will make a statement; [13889]

(2) if he will meet representatives of the learning disability sector to discuss future funding of services for people with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement; [13890]

(3) what steps the Government plans to take to improve care and support services for people with a learning disability in *(a)* Blaydon, *(b)* the North East of England and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement; [13891]

(4) how much and what proportion of the *(a)* adult social care and *(b)* NHS budget was spent on people with a learning disability in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [13948]

(5) how much the NHS spent on each category of its services for adults with learning disabilities in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [13949]

Mr Burstow: The Centre for Disability Research (2008) predicted a sustained increase in the number of people with learning disabilities known to services, from 2009 to 2026. The research detailed a number of scenarios, based on expected levels of need and anticipated levels of eligibility criteria in local authorities. All scenarios suggest sustained growth in the need for social care services for adults with learning disabilities over the full time period. However, average estimated annual increases vary from 1.04% (lower estimate, services are only provided to new entrants with critical or substantial needs) to 7.94% (upper estimate, services are provided to new entrants with critical, substantial or moderate needs).

The impact of these increases upon future funding requirements will depend on the ability of the social care system to deliver efficiency savings through a range of measures—including a renewed focus on preventing needs from escalating, greater personalisation, and improved community-based services to keep people independent. Future funding requirements will also depend upon decisions taken at a local level around charging policies and eligibility criteria.

Plans to improve care and support services for people with a learning disability within Blaydon and in the North East region are a matter for local decision. We have made clear our commitment to drive forward action to improve support and outcomes for people with learning disabilities across England and to support independent living. For this year, our priorities are to improve health outcomes and support people into jobs and homes of their own.

Gross expenditure on problems of Learning Disability from the NHS Programme Budgeting data, from 2003-04 onwards is shown as follows; we do not have data for previous years.

	£000
2003-04	2,272,971
2004-05	2,355,887
2005-06	2,595,671
2006-07	2,494,242
2007-08	2,856,102
2008-09	2,929,036

Source:
NHS Programme Budgeting data

Data on local authority expenditure on state funded care are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 1 following shows the gross expenditure for councils in England with Adult Social Services Responsibilities on adults aged 18 to 64 with learning disabilities as their primary client group between 2000-01 and 2008-09.

Table 1: Gross current expenditure for clients with a learning disability from 2000-01 to 2008-09, England[1]

	Total gross current expenditure for adults aged under 65 with a learning disability	*Total gross current expenditure for adult services*	*Percentage of total gross current expenditure for adults aged under 65 with a learning disability*
2000-01[2]	1,751,908	9,619,210	18
2001-02[2]	1,903,991	10,111,585	19
2002-03[2]	2,253,481	11,316,088	20
2003-04[2,3]	2,609,441	12,483,581	21
2004-05[2,3]	2,850,224	13,497,922	21
2005-06[2,3]	3,110,326	14,356,579	22
2006-07[2,3]	3,292,281	14,898,163	22
2007-08[3]	3,453,006	15,274,794	23
2008-09[3]	3,807,216	16,075,810	24

[1] Expenditure figures have not been adjusted for inflation.

[2] 2000-01 to 2006-07 figures include estimated Service Strategy and Asylum Seekers Assessment and Care Management apportioned to Adult Services and Children and Families Services using proportions calculated using 2007-08 data. Since 2007-08 this information has been collected separately.

[3] Includes expenditure funded from the Supporting People grant that councils have classified as Social Services expenditure rather than housing expenditure.

I have already agreed to meet with the Learning Disability Coalition to discuss future the funding of services for people with learning disability.

Infant Foods: Nurseries

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the effectiveness of the nursery milk scheme as a measure available to all children; [14247]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of the nursery milk scheme; [14337]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Minister for Public Health on proposals to terminate the nursery milk scheme; and on what dates such discussions took place. [14475]

Anne Milton: Milk is a source of important nutrients (such as calcium) as part of a balanced varied diet for young children.

The Department is unaware of any external studies undertaken on the value for money of the nursery milk scheme.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions on a range of matters.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will arrange for the chief executive of University Hospital Birmingham to send a substantive reply to the letter of 6 July 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North, on a constituent, reference JM/CC/3223. [14398]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health has no powers to direct national health service foundation trusts. We have brought the hon. Member's question to the attention of the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) from whom we understand that the chief executive of University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust has sent a further response to your letter which you should receive shortly, and that your complaint is being processed in line with the trust's complaints policy.

Mental Health Services

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent assessment of the level of confidence of general practitioners in the quality of secondary mental health services. [14495]

Mr Burstow: No such assessment has been made.

Mental Health Services: Children

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants are working in child and adolescent mental health services in each primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [13252]

Mr Burstow: The number of consultants working in child and adolescent mental health services in each primary care trust (PCT) is not collected centrally.

However, information on the various sub specialties, which may be involved in providing psychiatric services to children and adolescents, can be found in the following table showing a breakdown by PCT.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Consultants in each psychiatry specialty by primary care trust—England at 30 September 2009

Number (headcount)

		Child and adolescent psychiatry	*Forensic psychiatry*	*General psychiatry*	*Learning disabilities*	*Psychotherapy*
5A5	Kingston PCT	0	0	0	3	0
5C1	Enfield PCT	0	0	0	2	0
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	2	0	9	1	0
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	3	0	9	1	0
5D7	Newcastle PCT	0	0	1	0	0
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	5	0	13	2	0
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	3	0	8	1	0
5GC	Luton PCT	0	0	2	0	0
5HP	Blackpool PCT	2	0	0	0	0
5HX	Ealing PCT	0	0	1	0	0
5HY	Hounslow PCT	0	0	0	1	0
5JE	Barnsley PCT	2	0	8	1	0
5K8	Islington PCT	3	0	5	0	0
5L1	Southampton City PCT	11	0	0	0	0
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	0	0	0	7	0
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	6	0	0	0	0
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	4	0	10	2	0
5N1	Leeds PCT	6	0	0	0	0
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	3	0	0	0	0
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	0	0	1	0	0
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	3	0	0	0	0
5NL	Liverpool PCT	0	0	0	0	1
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	7	1	30	2	0
5P5	Surrey PCT	1	0	0	0	0
5PE	Dudley PCT	0	0	0	2	0
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	6	0	0	0	0
5PW	North East Essex PCT	0	0	0	7	0
.QC	Hampshire PCT	8	0	0	0	0
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	1	0	0	0	0
5QM	Dorset PCT	0	0	10	0	0
5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	0	0	12	0	0
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	4	0	0	0	0
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	0	0	9	0	0

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Consultants in each psychiatry specialty by primary care trust England at 30 September 2009

Number (headcount)

		Child and adolescent psychiatry	*Forensic psychiatry*	*General psychiatry*	*Learning disabilities*	*Psychotherapy*
	Total	77	1	128	32	1

Data quality:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Mental Illness

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the effect on life expectancy of a mental illness; and if he will take steps to seek to reduce that effect. [14493]

Mr Burstow: We have made no recent estimate of the effect on life expectancy of someone with a mental illness. However, we are aware of the body of evidence which suggests that there are increased rates in morbidity and premature mortality in those with serious mental illness. This is also true of those with common mental health disorders which coincide with increased obesity and smoking for example. We intend to address this issue in the new mental health strategy and mention of this has already been made in the new national health service outcomes framework.

Midwives: Manpower

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed by the NHS in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [14474]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of midwives, both full-time equivalent (FTE) and headcount, working in the hospital and community health services as at 30 September 2008 and 30 September 2009. Information for 30 September 2010 is not yet available; it is due to be published in March 2011.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in England as at 30 September 2008-09

	2008	*2009*
Registered midwives		
Headcount	25,664	26,451
FTE	19,639	20,236

Source:
NHS Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many independent midwives there were in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [14498]

Anne Milton: The number of independent midwives is not collected or held centrally.

Motor Neurone Disease: Health Services

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of establishing a national strategy for motor neurone disease; and if he will make a statement. [14091]

Mr Burstow: Motor neurone disease is a long-term neurological condition; the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions (NSF) was developed to address long-standing issues in neurological care, such as inequity in access to services; work force shortages and variable quality of care across the country. The NSF's quality requirements include a separate section on addressing the needs of people with rapidly progressing conditions, such as motor neurone disease, where services need to respond quickly.

We have made no assessment of the merits of establishing a national strategy for motor neurone disease.

NHS Walk-in Centres

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether proposed GP commissioning bodies will have the power to close existing NHS walk-in centres. [13698]

Mr Simon Burns: Our overarching principle is that commissioning decisions should wherever possible reflect the views of local clinicians and the local public. Under the proposals set out in our NHS White Paper: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", an NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning primary care services for registered patients, while general practitioner (GP) consortia will be responsible for commissioning urgent care. The responses to the consultation on "Commissioning for Patients", as part of the wider proposed changes in the White Paper, will enable us to proceed to set out the full details of how GP-led commissioning will work. We urge anyone who has any concerns to respond to the consultation by 11 October.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much income has been received from private patients using NHS hospitals and other NHS facilities since 1990. [13691]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is shown in the following table.

£ million

	Regional and district health authorities and special authorities for the London postgraduate teaching hospitals[1]	*Health authorities*[2]	*Primary care trusts*[3]	*NHS trusts*[4]	*NHS foundation trusts*[5]	*Total*
2009-10			2.6	190.3	223.5	416.4
2008-09			3.2	227.3	189.8	420.3
2007-08			2.9	238.4	165.6	406.9
2006-07			3.2	280.7	124.0	407.9
2005-06			2.6	295.5	98.4	396.5
2004-05			2.3	303.0	73.3	378.6
2003-04			2.6	374.7		377.3
2002-03		n/a	n/a	366.7		366.7
2001-02		n/a	n/a	340.8		340.8
2000-01		n/a	n/a	316.6		316.6
1999-2000		n/a		340.8		340.8
1998-99		n/a		290.8		290.8
1997-98		n/a		273.2		273.2
1996-97		n/a		235.7		235.7
1995-96	2.2			207.4		209.6
1994-95	5.9			189.5		195.4
1993-94	66.4			109.9		176.3
1992-93	98.8			58.5		157.3
1991-92	108.6			32.3		140.9
1990-91	107.5					107.5

– Indicates that there were no organisations in the sector for the particular year.

[1] Figures taken from the summarised account of regional and district health authorities and special health authorities for the London postgraduate teaching hospitals.

[2] Figures for private patient income are not separately disclosed in the summarised account of health authorities. The information is not held centrally.

[3] Figures taken from the primary care trust audited summarisation schedules which are only retained for seven years. Figures for private patient income are not separately disclosed in the summarised account of primary care trusts.

[4] Figures taken from the summarised account of NHS trusts.

[5] Figures taken from the consolidated account of NHS foundation trusts.

Obesity

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of people registered with GPs who have a body mass index of *(a)* 40 or more and *(b)* 35 or more with a co-morbidity of each (i) sex and (ii) ethnic origin. [13829]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested.

The data the NHS Information Centre holds on general practitioner-recorded adult obesity relate to the Quality and Outcomes Framework. The QOF includes a register of patients who have had their body mass index (BMI) recorded as greater than or equal to 30 in the last 15 months. This register only includes patients aged 16 and over. In 2008-09, (the latest period for which data have been published) the number of such patients was 4,389,964.

Data relating to sex and ethnic origin are not available via the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

Notes:

1. The QOF is GP-recorded adult obesity status which is collected on behalf of the Department by the NHS Information Centre.

2. QOF does not record the actual BMI so it is not possible to split this figure as to those with a BMI of over 40 or over 35. Sex or ethnicity data are not available via the QOF.

3. Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF and who visit their GP in the year in question.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the use of *(a)* patient-reported outcome measures, *(b)* care plans and *(c)* bereaved relative surveys in developing his Department's policy on end of life care. [13582]

Mr Burstow: The Department is currently consulting on an Outcomes Framework as part of the programme to implement the White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS". The Outcomes Framework will include patient-reported outcome measures and end of life care is covered in the consultation document (ref. "Transparency in outcomes—a framework for the NHS", Department of Health, 19 July 2010). A copy of the consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

The End of Life Care Strategy highlights the importance of ensuring patients approaching the end of life and their carers have care plans. End of life care is one of the work streams in the Department Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme. This is focussing on accelerating progression on the first steps on the end of life care pathway—identifying people who are approaching the end of life and then planning for their care, including Advance Care Planning.

The End of Life Care Strategy made a commitment to pilot, and then roll out, a survey of bereaved informal carers, which can be used as a proxy measure for the quality of care provided to the deceased, as well as measuring the care provided to the carers themselves. This commitment is being met through the Views of Informal Carers—Evaluation of Services (VOICES) questionnaire. This has been revised to reflect the recommendations in the Strategy and a pilot is currently under way to test out how the VOICES questionnaire could be most effectively utilised in a national survey. The pilot will run to January 2011. The results from such surveys will inform local policy development.

Social Services: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of people using *(a)* direct payments and *(b)* personal budgets to fund their care who had engaged the services of agency care staff who (i) did not have relevant skills qualifications, (ii) were not subject to regulation and (iii) had not received clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [14466]

Mr Burstow: The Department does not hold this information.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of apprenticeships to the economy *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the North East. [13693]

Mr Hayes: A report commissioned by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007 estimated that the net present value (NPV) of completing an apprenticeship is around £105,000 at Level 3, and £73,000 at Level 2. NPV captures the surplus of lifetime benefits, in terms of higher wages and employment likelihoods, over the costs of undertaking the learning, including both the resource costs to the state and the employer, as well as the value of output foregone during learning.

The full report—"A Cost Benefit Analysis of Apprenticeships and Other Vocational Qualifications"—can be accessed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR834.pdf

A report commissioned by the Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network in 2008 found that employers recouped the cost of their investment in apprenticeship training within two to three years in the majority of cases. Employers also identified a number of longer term benefits from the training, outlined in the report.

The full report—"The Net Benefit to Employer Investment in Apprenticeship Training"—can be accessed at:

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ier/publications/2008/apprenticeship_report_research_1_521.pdf

In neither report is the analysis broken down according to region.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were available *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the North East on the most recent date for which figures are available. [13694]

Mr Hayes: Apprenticeships are jointly funded by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education. In 2008/09, the latest full year for which data are available, there were 240,000 apprenticeship starts in England and 17,200 in the north east. Final full year data for 2009/10 will be available in January 2011. In the 2010/11 academic year 131,000 16 to 18-year-old and 167,000 adult apprenticeship starts are planned. The Government's decision to redeploy £150 million of our savings in 2010-11, creating an additional 50,000 adult places, demonstrates our commitment to high-quality employer owned apprenticeships. We fund apprenticeships on a national basis through the Skills Funding Agency—there are no regional or sectoral allocations.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of persons seeking an apprenticeship *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the North East. [13695]

Mr Hayes: Information on the total number of young people and adults seeking an apprenticeship is not collected centrally. People may start an apprenticeship through a variety of routes, including using apprenticeships vacancies, the national on-line system for advertising and applying for apprenticeship vacancies. Alternatively people may apply directly to a training provider or to an employer offering an apprenticeship programme, or may already be employed and undertake an apprenticeship. However, from this academic year (2010/11) training providers are required to submit all apprenticeship vacancies through the national apprenticeships vacancies system. This does not apply where it is proposed that the apprenticeship opportunity will be offered to a learner already employed. In the last academic year (August 2009 to July 2010) 354,000 candidates had registered to use apprenticeship vacancies and 75,000 candidates made at least one application. A regional breakdown is not available.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher level apprenticeship courses will be available in each constituency in the 2010-11 academic year. [13944]

Mr Hayes: Data on the number of higher (level 4) apprenticeships by constituency are not currently available. Aggregate information about the total number of higher apprentice starts is also not separately available at present because of the historically small number of starts at this level. Higher apprenticeships are currently included with advanced (level 3) apprenticeships and data are available through the Department for Business Innovation and Skills Statistical First Releases (SFR) by parliamentary constituency. The supplementary tables through the following link include these data:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirst release/sfr_supplementary_tables/

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people commenced an apprenticeship in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* May 2010. [13960]

Mr Hayes: The number of apprenticeships in 1996/97 was 75,000 last published in the Statistical First Release on the 24 Oct 2002, but these data were calculated on a different basis and therefore may not be directly comparable with later years.

Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for England from 2003/04 to 2008/09. 2003/04 is the earliest year for which comparable data are available and 2008/09 is the latest year for which full year data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Programme Starts, 2003/04 to 2008/09

Academic Year	*Apprenticeships*
2003/04	193,600
2004/05	189,000
2005/06	175,000
2006/07	184,400
2007/08	224,800
2008/09	239,900

Note:
1 All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 24 June 2010

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Disability

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* encourage take-up of apprenticeships by and *(b)* broaden access to apprenticeships for people with disabilities; [14017]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to promote *(a)* gender and *(b)* racial equality in the take-up of apprenticeships in all trades. [14018]

Mr Hayes: Both my Department and the Department for Education are responsible for the promotion of equality of access to apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS), as the body responsible for promoting apprenticeships to employers and to potential apprentices, manages its systems to ensure equal access to information about the programme and to apprenticeship vacancies. Enhanced support includes additional funding available for training providers to support learners with a learning difficulty and/or disability. A priority for NAS is to address stereotyping and under-representation across apprenticeships including gender, race and disability. NAS and the Skills Funding Agency fund apprenticeships through a wide range of training providers including specialist providers that support disadvantaged learners. NAS also works with employers to help them understand and be more responsive to the needs of under-represented groups.

This Department regularly publishes starts, completion and success rate data for all these groups and Ofsted assess training providers on their equality and diversity support for apprentices.

Apprentices: Finance

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* the total administrative cost and *(b)* the (i) absolute and (ii) percentage administrative cost per apprentice of the National Apprenticeship Scheme was in 2009-10. [13398]

Mr Hayes: In 2009-10, the total expenditure on participation in apprenticeship training was £1,072 million, including the Department for Education's expenditure on apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds. Additionally, a total of £33 million was spent on activities supporting the expansion of the Apprenticeships Programme, such as maintaining the Apprenticeship vacancies IT system, marketing and communications and piloting new delivery models.

It is not possible to provide a meaningful average cost to the public purse of an apprenticeship. The public cost of delivering an apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry in which the apprenticeship framework is being delivered; length of stay on the programme; whether the framework is at Level 2 or 3; and whether the participant is in the 16 to 18, 19 to 25 or 25+ age group. For example, the Skills Funding Agency estimates that the cost of delivering a Level 2 adult apprenticeship in business and administration is around £2,700 and is £16,300 for an advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) in engineering for a 16 to 18-year-old.

The Apprenticeship programme is administered by the National Apprenticeship Service, which was housed within the LSC during 2009-10. The total administrative cost of the LSC in 2009-10 was £247 million. Information on the proportion of this expenditure that relates to the administration of apprenticeships is not available.

Business Links

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure the continuation of business advice services provided to small and medium-sized enterprises through Business Link. [14168]

Mr Prisk: This Department is committed to modernising how support, information and advice are provided to businesses. With the proposed abolition of the regional development agencies who manage the Business Link service in the regions, we are currently considering how best to deliver support to business in the future.

Our aim is to establish a better, simpler, more cost effective system of business support delivering:

reduced spend in light of the pressures on public finances;

a clear focus on growth to drive recovery;

support targeted on the businesses which would most benefit;

more local involvement;

best use of technology to ensure a fully modernised and cost effective approach to publicly funded business support, drawing in and complementing more extensive private sector provision.

Whatever the final shape of the business support system, we will work with all delivery partners to ensure an orderly transition and will ensure that any changes to relevant functions and responsibilities are managed as smoothly as possible.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12711]

Mr Davey: Since the coalition Government was formed on 11 May, the Department has not yet terminated, or been informed by its agencies, NDPBs and other partner organisations of the termination of any legally binding IT contracts with a lifetime value over £100,000. A process is currently under way to review ICT projects in line with the coalition Government's ICT moratorium guidance.

Prior to 11 May, the information requested was not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education: Qualifications

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the consultation undertaken with further education colleges by Summit Skills when developing new qualifications under the Qualifications and Credit Framework; [13688]

(2) what steps he takes to ensure that sector skills councils represent the views of small and medium-sized businesses when developing qualifications under the Qualifications and Credit Framework. [13689]

Mr Hayes: Sector Skills Councils consult with a wide range of employers and other interested parties when developing National Occupational Standards, Sector Qualifications Strategies and Action Plans; all of which allow them to decide on the vocational qualifications that then need to be developed for the Qualifications and Credit Framework in their sector.

Sector Qualifications Strategies outline the learning and qualifications needs of employers in their sector and action plans specify where changes and new vocational qualifications are needed. Consultation is built into this process; for example, Summit Skills regularly attends further education conferences to listen to colleges' views. Awarding organisations then develop vocational qualifications and SSCs approve these before they are accredited onto the QCF to ensure that they meet the sectors' skills needs.

National Occupational Standards underpin vocational qualifications and SSCs have specific targets for consulting with small and medium-sized enterprises when developing these standards.

Employment Agency

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate. [13704]

Mr Davey: There are no current plans to make any changes to the Employment Agency Standards inspectorate (EAS). EAS will continue to investigate Complaints from workers and enforce the Conduct Regulations using a risk based approach.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which body will be responsible for administering European Regional Development Funding in circumstances where that funding is relevant to multi-agency and cross-local authority boundary work, and where the requirement for the funding lies clearly out with any potential local enterprise partnership boundary following the abolition of regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [14032]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

My Department will continue to be the managing authority for ERDF programmes in England. We are currently considering the future arrangements for managing the programmes across England, following the abolition of regional development agencies. This will cover the management of all ERDF projects, including those which involve multi-agency work and cross-local authority boundaries.

EU Grants and Loans: Blackpool

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on Blackpool of the decision to freeze further allocations of North West Development Agency funding under the current European Regional Development Fund programme. [14012]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* Funding for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme is still available. We have frozen any further matched funding from the RDA Single Pot, given the in-year budget cuts and the need to manage down RDA commitments during their wind down.

However, ERDF funding is available where it is matched by private sector or other public sector funding, and we would not expect this decision to have any adverse effect on Blackpool.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the status is of funding allocated by the North West Development Agency to ongoing regeneration projects in Blackpool backed by funding allocated from the European Regional Development Fund. [14013]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* NWDA have confirmed that they will continue to fund those projects that are already contractually committed. However they will not be able to fund any project which is not yet contracted. This may affect some of the ongoing regeneration projects in Blackpool.

Graduates

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of people in *(a)* Liverpool Wavertree constituency and *(b)* England have graduate or higher level qualifications. [13752]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number and percentage of working age adults (men aged 19 to 64 and women aged 19 to 59) in Liverpool local authority and England that hold qualifications equivalent to NGF level 4 or above. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and cover the period from January to December 2009, the latest year for which data are available.

Table 1: Number and percentage of people aged 19-59/64 holding qualifications at NQF Level 4 or above, 2009

	England	*Liverpool LA*
Working age adults at Level 4 or above	9,547,000	76,000
Percentage of all working age adults	30.0%	27.1%
95% Confidence Intervals	+/-0.2ppts	+/- 2.6ppts

While local authority level estimates can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies such as parliamentary constituencies. Furthermore, estimates for local authorities are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[1] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a 95% CI of +1-2.6 percentage points (pp) means that the true value for the Liverpool estimate shown above is between 24.5% and 29.7% for 95% of cases.

[1] Those given are 95% confidence intervals

It is important to note that the estimates provided here will not be comparable with estimates from the Labour Force Survey, which BIS uses to report headline measures of qualifications held within the population at national level in England. As well as being based on different time periods, the estimates from the two data sets are compiled using different methodologies. The method used to calculate the headline Labour Force Survey measure allows for known issues arising in capturing data on attainment through social surveys, but this method cannot be applied to the Annual Population Survey data. As a result, the estimates provided above potentially underestimate attainment within the population.

Minimum Wage: Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department provides to businesses on their legal obligations under national minimum wage legislation in respect of unpaid interns. [13809]

Mr Davey: The Department provides guidance for businesses on national minimum wage requirements in respect of internships on the businesslink.gov website. This guidance can be found at

www.businesslink.gov.uk/nmw

Public Sector: Procurement

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that small and medium-sized construction development firms in the North East have the opportunity to compete for public sector procurement contracts on an equal basis with large, national and centralised companies. [11780]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Coalition Programme for Government signals the Government's commitment to small and medium-sized businesses succeeding in the public sector. The Government have set an aspiration that 25% of Government contracts should be awarded to SMEs, and has committed to publishing Government tenders in full, online and free of charge.

To make it easier for SMEs to win public sector business, the Government are also taking steps to simplify and streamline the procurement process, which we will update Parliament on in due course.

Government procurement policy requires that contracts be awarded through fair and open competition, in compliance with EU Treaty principles and UK regulations implementing the EU Procurement Directives. Such competitions are open to all companies regardless of size.

Unemployment: Young People

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many persons aged under 25 years are not in education, employment or training *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the North East. [13696]

Mr Hayes: Estimates of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published quarterly by the Department for Education.

The latest publication is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/index.shtml

The supplementary table giving a regional breakdown of 16 to 24-year-olds NEET, and the England total, is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/NEET16_24.xls

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships funded from the public purse have been taken up in each financial year since the publication of the Leitch Review of Skills in 2004. [13697]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for England from 2004/05. 2008/09 is the latest year for which full year data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts, 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Apprenticeships*
2004/05	189,000
2005/06	175,000
2006/07	184,400
2007/08	224,800
2008/09	239,900

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. '—' indicates a base figure of less than 50.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 24 June 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirst release/sfr_current

CABINET OFFICE

Public Sector: Pay

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the proportion of public sector workers in Scotland who earn *(a)* less than £21,000 per annum and *(b)* £21,000 or more per annum. [14342]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the proportion of public sector workers in Scotland who earn (a) less than £21,000 per annum and (b) £21,000 per annum and over. (14342)

Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

I attach a table showing the proportion of public sector employees in Scotland who earn (a) less than £21,000 per annum and (b) £21,000 per annum and over in 2009, the latest period for which figures are available. Figures are provided for all employees and full-time employees.

Proportion of all and full time public sector employees[1] earning < £21,000 per annum and > £21,000 per annum (£)—Scotland 2009

	Percentage	
	<£21,000	*>£21,000*
All public sector employees	46.8	53.2
Full time public sector employees	28.9	71.1

[1] Employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than a year. As at April 2009.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

TREASURY

Academies: Finance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether enactment of the Academies Bill would have Barnett consequentials for *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [12186]

Danny Alexander: Funding for the Department of Education in England will be determined in the spending review in the autumn. As education is devolved to the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive, any Barnett consequentials will be determined in the spending review in the usual way.

Banks: Loans

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish an inquiry into the effectiveness of banks' lending practices in supporting economic recovery. [13692]

Mr Hoban: On 26 July, the Government published a Green Paper on business finance to help inform and take forward its agenda on credit and other sources of finance for businesses.

The Government are inviting views from businesses and the financial community to suggest approaches for enhancing access to finance, including suggestions for the improvement of banks' current lending practices. The Green Paper and information about providing responses are available here:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

The deadline for responses is 20 September 2010.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for its employees in each year since 1997. [7416]

Justine Greening: The available information on travel spending for the organisations requested is shown in the following table. Data for HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office are only available from 2002-03 due to the introduction of a new accounting system in that year. The Asset Protection Agency was created in 2009-10. The figure quoted for the Royal Mint Advisory Committee includes subsistence. Data for prior years are not available.

£000

	HM Treasury	*Debt Management Office*	*Asset Protection Agency*	*Royal Mint Advisory Committee*
2002-03	1,333	14	n/a	n/a
2003-04	1,828	36	n/a	n/a
2004-05	1,764	22	n/a	n/a
2005-06	1,929	36	n/a	n/a
2006-07	2,079	23	n/a	n/a
2007-08	1,776	37	n/a	n/a
2008-09	1,735	48	n/a	n/a
2009-10	1,639	33	1	4

EU Budget

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of the last bi-monthly payment from the UK to the EU budget. [11302]

Justine Greening: The latest UK payment to the EU Budget was made on 1 September 2010 and was £804,367,165.72.

The Government have been leading efforts to bear down on the 2011 EU Budget. We believe that it is only fair that the EU Budget plays its part in the difficult fiscal consolidation faced by many EU member states.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer told a recent meeting of EU Finance Ministers, a freeze in EU spending levels should be considered.

The Government are also taking steps to contain the cost of the EU Budget and when negotiations of the 2014-20 budget envelope begin (expected in the first half of 2011), the Government will strongly defend the UK's national interests and ensure that spending is focused on those areas where the EU adds value.

EU Internal Trade: Fraud

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce missing trader intra-community fraud. [14136]

Mr Gauke: The Government have in place a comprehensive strategy to combat VAT missing trader intra-community fraud. This comprises a wide range of different activities, carried out by staff across HMRC and the United Kingdom Border Force.

As a result, the estimate of attempted fraud has fallen from its peak of between £4 billion and £6 billion in 2005-06 to between £1.0 billion and £2.5 billion in 2008-09. The impact on VAT receipts has also substantially reduced from £2.5-£4.5 billion in 2005-06 to £1.0-£2.5 billion in 2008-09.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 30 June, (reference 7/21100/2010), transferred to him from the Department for Work and Pensions. [14336]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Minimum Wage: Enforcement

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to improve enforcement of legislation governing the national minimum wage by HM Revenue and Customs. [13701]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Effective enforcement of the national minimum wage (NMW) plays a crucial role in driving up compliance levels. Officials are working with HMRC to deliver a compliance strategy that ensures that enforcement is targeted on the areas where there is the greatest risk of non-compliance. To achieve this, HMRC will be testing new ways of working to focus on the most 'at risk' employers and the most 'at risk' workers. This will include piloting a triage approach to investigating complaints and making greater use of the contribution that community bodies, unions, trade associations in the low pay sectors and other interested parties can make to promoting the NMW and raising the profile of enforcement. We will also be encouraging more NMW inspection activity co-ordinated with the work of other bodies, including the Employment Agency Standards inspectorate. This will build on the joint working agreements put in place following the launch of the single Pay and Work Rights helpline last year.

Central to our compliance strategy is the proposition that a 'one size fits all approach' is not the most effective. We will therefore continue to use a variety of tools and techniques to reach different audiences, ranging from ensuring that up-to-date, practical and accessible guidance is available, through to prosecution of the worst employers. This tailored approach to NMW compliance ensures that employers who want to comply have access to information and tools to enable them to do so and those employers who would otherwise be tempted to operate outside of the law are deterred from doing so.

NHS: Finance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely financial effect on Barnett consequentials to *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland of proposed changes to health spending in England. [12185]

Danny Alexander: Funding for the NHS in England will be determined in the spending review in the autumn. As health policy is devolved to the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive, any Barnett consequentials will be determined in the spending review in the usual way.

Public Sector: Pay

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the public sector pay freeze for those earning over £21,000 per year will include local government craft workers whose rates of pay are governed by agreements of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Craft and Associated Employees; and whether the £250 annual payment for public sector workers earning under £21,000 per year will be paid to such workers. [13992]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The pay of local government craft workers is determined by the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Local Authority Craft and Associated Employees, made up of the employers' side and the trade union side. Central Government have no role in respect of the JNC.

Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken by his Department to reduce levels of tax avoidance; and how much additional tax revenue he estimates will accrue from such steps. [13235]

Mr Gauke: This Government are committed to tackling avoidance and intend to build in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and to review areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes.

HMRC's anti-avoidance strategy is based on stopping avoidance at source as far as possible, through robust legislation, early detection of avoidance schemes and engaging with taxpayers to deter them from engaging in tax avoidance.

The disclosure of tax avoidance schemes regime forms a key part of this. It provides early information about schemes and informs efforts to prevent avoidance through legislation and operational intervention. Where avoidance is identified, HMRC responds quickly by advising the Government on legislative changes to close loopholes and by challenging avoidance schemes vigorously, including, where necessary, through litigation.

As the emphasis of HMRC's strategy is on prevention, it is difficult to provide estimates of the total amount of tax that is protected. However, HMRC estimate that the disclosure of tax avoidance schemes regime has already helped to prevent over £12 billion in avoidance opportunities since 2004. Changes announced in the Budget will further strengthen the regime to provide HMRC with better information and make it harder for those who do not comply.

Taxation: Business

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which accountancy firms have been approved by HM Revenue and Customs to conduct independent business reviews of companies seeking to defer their tax payments; and what mechanism his Department used to select these firms. [13337]

Mr Gauke: In a document published on its website on 8 March 2010, HMRC invited expressions of interest from industry experts who wanted to be included on the Independent Business Review Panel. The details of this invitation can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/ibr-eoi.htm

Following the expression of interest exercise a full list of the successful applicants was published on HMRC's website on the 22 April 2010:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/ibr-panel.htm

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (1) civil servants in his Department spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997; [11678]

(2) paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997. [11677]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has one member of staff, Grade 7, who spends 0.60 (FTE) of time working as a trade union official.

HM Treasury follow the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities" when allowing other staff time off for trade union activities available at:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2391.

VAT

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the sums to accrue to the Exchequer if zero rating for value added tax were removed from *(a)* domestic passenger transport, *(b)* newspapers and magazines and *(c)* water and sewerage in (i) 2010, (ii) 2012 and (iii) 2015; [12942]

(2) if he will estimate the sum to accrue to the Exchequer if the exemption from value added tax of betting, gaming and the National Lottery were removed in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2015; [12944]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer if residential property *(a)* conversions and *(b)* renovations were exempt from value added tax in (i) 2010, (ii) 2012 and (iii) 2015. [12957]

Mr Gauke: The estimated costs of VAT zero rates and exemptions are published in table 1.5 'Estimated costs of the principal tax expenditure and structural reliefs' on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

This shows the broad estimated costs of the VAT zero rates on

domestic passenger transport,

books, newspapers and magazines, and

water and sewerage services.

and the VAT exemption from betting, gaming and lottery duties.

As they are based on the current reliefs, they do not include behavioural effects were they to be removed.

No estimates are available of the cost of exempting residential property on conversions and renovations from value added tax.

The specific set of estimates requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Prisoners: Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation has been paid to prisoners in each of the last eight years; and on what grounds each payment was made. [12391]

Mr Blunt: The following table details the total amount of compensation paid to prisoners over the last five financial years as a result of civil claims, by way of out of court settlement, or by court award. The figures exclude private establishments. Compensation figures prior to 2004-05 were not collated centrally. The grounds on which individual claims were concluded would entail the checking of more than a thousand files and would entail disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Type of prisoner claim*	*Settlement amounts (£)*	*Court awards (£)*
2004-05	Abuse/ harassment	500	0
	Assault by prisoner	79,409	0
	Assault by staff	180,408	0
	Injury—other	406,028	9,000
	Slip, trip and fall	102,975	2,750
	Medical negligence	1,441,500	350
	ODPL	0	0
	Other	36,825	0
	Property	7,015	7,540
	Unlawful detention	104,927	350

Financial year	*Type of prisoner claim*	*Settlement amounts (£)*	*Court awards (£)*
	2004-05 totals	2,359,587	19,990
2005-06	Abuse/harassment	7,000	0
	HRA—Article 5(4)	0	0
	HRA—Sanitation	0	0
	Assault by prisoner	13,270	0
	Assault by staff	134,750	0
	Injury—other	3,491,744	0
	Slip, trip and fall	81,678	2,500
	Medical negligence	553,200	0
	ODPL	0	0
	Other	73,328	20,000
	Property	15,860	2,144
	Unlawful detention	80,297	0
	2005-06 totals	4,451,127	24,644
2006-07	Abuse/harassment	0	0
	HRA—Article 5(4)	0	0
	HRA-Sanitation	0	0
	Assault by prisoner	74,100	0
	Assault by staff	91,850	0
	Injury—other	646,569	0
	Slip, trip and fall	189,820	1,425
	Medical negligence	195,508	0
	ODPL	749,999	0
	Other	79,783	157
	Property	19,666	11,104
	Unlawful detention	95,376	0
	2006-07 totals	2,142,671	12,686
2007-08	Abuse/harassment	0	0
	Claims by estate	349,100	0
	Article 5(4)	0	0
	Article 3—heating	0	0
	Article 3—sanitation	0	0
	Assault by prisoner	39,433	0
	Assault by staff	66,683	0
	Injury—other	172,754	500
	Slip, trip and fall	138,265	3,210
	Medical negligence	222,333	0
	ODPL	0	0
	Other	169,814	17,729
	Property	17,670	8,922
	Unlawful detention	276,257	0
	2007-08 totals	1,452,309	30,361
2008-09	Abuse/harassment	1,500	0
	Claims by estate	164,000	0
	Article 5(4)	65,250	15,314
	Article 3—heating	0	0
	Article 3—sanitation	0	0
	Assault by prisoner	79,819	0
	Assault by staff	165,950	3,500
	Injury—other	179,060	10
	Slip, trip and fall	139,333	0
	Medical negligence	203,933	0
	ODPL	0	0
	Other	134,223	0
	Property	23,918	2,443
	Unlawful detention	491,059	0
	2008-09 totals	1,648,045	21,267
2009-10	Abuse/harassment	0	0
	Claims by estate	85,500	0
	Article 5(4)	13,050	0
	Article 3—heating	0	0
	Article 3—sanitation	0	0
	Article 5(4)—delay	0	0
	Assault by prisoner	107,057	0
	Assault by staff	512,225	22,403
	Injury—other	202,831	0
	Slip, trip and fall	205,153	0
	Medical negligence	1,609,250	0
	ODPL	0	0
	Other	238,235	2,643
	Property	24,648	3,583
	Unlawful detention	259,943	0
	2009-10 totals	3,257,692	26,629

Notes:

1. The term "ODPL" refers to Opiate Dependant Prisoner Litigation. It relates to claims from prisoners who claimed that their drug detoxification treatment dating back to the late 1990's was inadequate.

2. The category "Injury—other" includes miscellaneous injuries that do not fit into categories elsewhere in the table, such as injuries at work, smoke inhalation, asbestos claims, etc. The category "Other" includes allegations of breaches of Human Rights, misfeasance in public office, discrimination etc.

Community Orders: Public Expenditure

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of community sentences in each of the last three years. [12373]

Mr Blunt: It is not currently possible to separate the cost of supervising offenders on community sentences as probation case loads also include significant numbers of offenders who have been released from a custodial sentence or released temporarily into the community. Work is in hand in the National Offender Management Service to ensure that all offender services delivered in custody and in the community are properly specified and costed so that commissioners can ensure resources are targeted effectively to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

Our future plans for, and the balance of expenditure between, custodial and community provision will need to be considered in the light of the assessment of sentencing and work on new approaches to rehabilitation.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [12484]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) came into existence in May 2007, merging the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office. This means comprehensive and comparable data are only available for 2007 onwards.

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) collates data annually on consultancy expenditure as part of its Consultancy Value Programme which assists Departments in getting best value from Government's use of consultants. Expenditure is reported as a single total for those parts of the Department using central departmental procurement services, namely MOJ headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS), the Tribunals Service, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Judicial Appointments Commission. The total was £50 million in 2008-09 and £56 million in 2007-08. A data collection exercise is currently under way for the expenditure on consultants in 2009-10. Figures for the Ministry of Justice family will be published in October 2010.

It is not possible to reliably distinguish consultancy costs from adviser costs, except at a disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on consultants and advisors are detailed in the below table.

		£000
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Department and agencies		
MOJ HQ, HMCS and Tribunals Service[1]	35,886	48,339
National Offenders Management Service (excluding Probation Trusts)	20,409	1,352
Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)[2]	418	497
Sub total	56,713	50,188
Executive NDPBs:		
Legal Services Commission (LSC)	1,205	1,122
Youth Justice Board (YJB)	1,011	2,251
Parole Board	88	200
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	1,801	164
Criminal Cases Review Commission	6	11
Information Commissioner's Office[3]	126	90
Judicial Appointments Commission	—	215
Legal Services Board[4]	—	28
Office for Legal Complaints (OLC)[5]	—	—
Sub total	4,237	4,081
Total	60,951	54,269

[1] Figures include MOJ HQ, Tribunals Service and HM Courts Service. It would incur disproportionate costs to separately identify these costs.
[2] The first six months in 2007-08 are for Public Guardian's Office and the second period of six months for OPG. The OPG was created under the terms of the Mental Capacity Act and exists as such from 1st October 2007.
[3] These figures do not include Legal Counsel Costs for appeals to the Information Tribunal.
[4] The LSB was established on 1 January 2009.
[5] The OLC was established in July 2009 and has yet to commence live operations.
Note:
Refinements in the methodology for classifying expenditure in accordance with OGC taxonomy means that the 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures are not directly comparable at a detailed level.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each English region was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12485]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice uses vehicles for a wide range of front-line services, including the transportation of prisoners and defendants. The Ministry's accounting systems do not record information on a regional basis and it would incur disproportionate costs to determine a regional breakdown.

The following table shows the amount spent on the purchase, hire and maintenance of vehicles for Ministry of Justice headquarters, executive agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) where total annual expenditure exceeds £500:

				Nearest £000
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Ministry of Justice headquarters	922	835	249	595
Agencies				
Her Majesty's Courts Service	2,652	2,640	2,920	2,995
National Offender Management Services[2]	4,061	4,403	4,367	4,257
Tribunals Service	96	65	82	58
Non-departmental public bodies[3]				
Legal Services Commission	58	57	44	35
Youth Justice Board[4]	16	43	49	36
Parole Board for England and Wales	—	2	4	4
Criminal Cases Review Commission	4	4	3	4
Information Commissioner's Office	3	3	4	4
Total	7,812	8,052	7,722	7,988

Approximate split of expenditure: MoJ HQ/HMCS/TS/NOMS only

				Percentage
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Purchase	39	41	41	41
Hire of vehicles	51	48	47.5	50

Approximate split of expenditure: MoJ HQ/HMCS/TS/NOMS only

				Percentage
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11[1]
Maintenance of vehicles	10	11	11.5	9
	100	100	100	100

[1] Estimated.

[2] *National Offender Management Services caveats:* The expenditure for 2007-08 is for Her Majesty's Prison Service only. The expenditure for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is for the NOMS agency. The figures exclude the Probation Service as it would result in disproportionate cost and delay to obtain the probation figures.

[3] The following executive NDPBs did not incur expenditure in excess of £500 per annum: Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority; Judicial Appointments Commission; Legal Services Board; Office for Legal Complaints.

[4] Youth Justice Board expenditure in 2008-09 and 2009-10 includes car hire costs relating to the Wiring Up Youth Justice programme and form part of the total costs shown. A significant proportion of total YJB car hire costs were specific to this programme. In 2009-10 nearly two-thirds of total car hire spend was specific to this project. As the Wiring Up Youth Justice programme is now winding down, costs for the current financial year are expected to be significantly less than in 2009-10.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12483]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Details of planned expenditure for pension contributions for the Ministry of Justice, its non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies for 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

Planned expenditure for 2010-11

	£
MOJ & associated offices[1]	10,925,255
Legal Services Commission (NDPB)[2]	0
Youth Justice Board for England & Wales (NDPB)	1,784,0[illegible]0
Parole Board for England & Wales (NDPB)	614,2[illegible]7
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (NDPB)	1,731,[illegible]60
Criminal Case Review Commission (NDPB)	487,000
Information Commissioner's Office (NDPB)	1,717,000
Judicial Appointments Commission (NDPB)	650,000
Legal Services Board (NDPB)	197,000
HM Courts Service (Agency)[1]	45,826,980
The Tribunals Service (Agency)[1]	8,587,335
Office of the Public Guardian (Agency)[1]	497,393

[1] It has not been possible to obtain planned expenditure for 2010-11 without incurring disproportional costs, information for year-to-date spend (i.e. April to July) expenditure are included in the table above.

[2] Legal Service Commission (LSC) pensions cost for 2009-10 are awaiting audit confirmation. LSC has used available funds in prior years to make prepayments to ease cash spend for future years and plan to make zero contribution in 2010-11.

The information on planned pension contributions for 2010-11 will be published in the relevant Department's/NDPB's Annual Report or Resource Accounts in due course. Estimates provided have not been audited and are therefore subject to change.

Information on planned pension contributions for 2010-11 covering National Offender Management Service Agency is not accessible at this time. My officials will provide the planned costs as soon as they are available.

Details of pension contributions made by the Ministry of Justice, its non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies for each of the last three financial years are shown in the following table.

			£
		Financial year	
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
MOJ and associated offices[1]	22,817,000	23,968,000	23,941,000
Legal Services Commission (NDPB)[2]	23,473,000	9,846,000	16,120,000
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (NDPB)	1,415,000	1,871,000	1,879,000
Parole Board for England and Wales (NDPB)	364,688	399,215	472,270
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (NDPB)	1,729,512	1,569,366	1,697,823
Criminal Case Review Commission (NDPB)	552,000	514,000	478,000
Information Commissioner's Office (NDPB)	1,196,000	1,354,000	1,512,000
Judicial Appointments Commission (NDPB)	£544,818	£641,144	£692,404
Legal Services Board (NDPB)[4]	0	0	169,000
National Offender Management Service inc Probation Board/Trusts (Agency)	321,358,980	336,852,342	343,580,735
HM Courts Service (Agency)	75,388,000	77,061,000	73,820,000
The Tribunals Service (Agency)	9,260,000	9,105,000	9,473,000
Office of the Public Guardian (Agency)	1,478,000	1,537,000	1,476,000

[1] It has not been possible to obtain planned expenditure for 2010-11 without incurring disproportional costs, information for year-to-date spend (i.e. April to July) expenditure are included in the table above.

[2] Legal Service Commission (LSC) pensions cost for 2009-10 are awaiting audit confirmation. LSC has used available funds in prior years to make prepayments to ease cash spend for future years and plan to make zero contribution in 2010-11.

[3] Pension costs for MOJ and associated offices include the Wales Office and Scotland Office and covers employees, Ministers and Special Advisors.

[4] Legal Services Board became operational on 1 January 2009 and its pension scheme (which is a defined contribution scheme) was set up during the financial year 2009-10.

It has not been possible to provide this information broken down according to contributions for (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland without incurring disproportional costs.

Judiciary: Public Expenditure

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of a *(a)* district judge and *(b)* bench of magistrates in the latest period for which figures are available. [12367]

Mr Djanogly: The average 2010-11 costs of regional and London district judges (magistrates) will be £147,320 and £153,050 respectively.

The average 2009-10 cost of a bench of magistrates was £1,945.

Prisoners: Computers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been provided laptop computers in each of the last five years. [12414]

Mr Blunt: The number of laptop computers issued to prisoners is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by asking each prison to analyse records held locally.

There are two main reasons for the issue of laptop computers to prisoners:

(1) education—higher education/Open University-type course work, usually used under supervision in a classroom environment, although computers are also issued on a personal basis to a small number of risk-assessed prisoners for use in cell where this is considered appropriate; and

(2) access to justice—to assist in the preparation of defence, appeal, or related legal work in those cases where it is satisfactorily demonstrated that the refusal to grant such facilities would raise a genuine risk of prejudicing the legal proceedings.

In addition to the risk assessment process, any computer that prisoners have access to is subject to strict security controls. Any laptop computer issued for in-cell use will be restricted to specific applications with no unauthorised access to external programs, including the internet.

Trilateral Working

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what organisational arrangements he has made to ensure the effectiveness of trilateral working between his Department, the Home Office and the Attorney-General's Office on matters relating to the operation of *(a)* the criminal justice system and *(b)* the criminal law. [12161]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There is joint working at all levels between the Ministry of Justice, Home Office and Attorney-General's Office on the operation of the criminal justice system and criminal law. The importance of a joined-up approach is reflected in the Prime Minister's appointment of my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel & South Downs (Nick Herbert), as Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice, reporting to both me as Secretary of State for Justice and the Home Secretary.

These arrangements are underpinned by trilateral governance structures, including a Crime and Criminal Justice Strategy Board and a CJS Operational Board, which brings together heads of the criminal justice agencies and the Senior Presiding Judge.

In relation to matters pertaining to the criminal law, these are commonly discussed during the regular ministerial meetings which are held between me the Secretary of State for Justice, the Home Secretary and the Attorney-General. In addition, any proposals for new legislation are now required to be brought to my attention (the Secretary of State for Justice) as a gatekeeping measure. This function ensures both that only strictly necessary legislation is introduced and confirms that joint working is taking place between relevant departments when considering the impact of legislation.

Unpaid Fines

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on the level of unpaid fines of his Department's plan to increase the use of fines. [12397]

Mr Blunt: The national payment rate for financial penalties at the end of the 2008-09 financial year was 85% and 71% excluding the value of administrative cancellations. The payment rate covers fines, compensation, victims surcharge, and unpaid fixed penalty notices. Her Majesty's Courts Service has in place a strategy to increase the success of compliance with court orders particularly with regard to financial penalties—the Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services Blueprint. This was launched in July 2008 and is being implemented across HMCS. The blueprint sets out HMCS's strategic objective for enforcement which is for a cheaper, faster and more proportionate system that primarily focuses on 'first time' compliance while continuing to apply the principles of rigorous enforcement to the hard core of defaulters. The blueprint implementation ensures greater use of the sanctions available under the Courts Act 2003 and extended methods of payment. In the 2009-10 financial year HMCS collected £259,241,082 which was £12.5 million (5%) more cash against financial penalties than in the 2008-09 year.

The use of fines is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Justice as part of a full assessment of sentencing. We will publish sentencing proposals for consultation in a Green Paper in the autumn. Any proposals made in relation to fines will take into account the issue of enforcement.

Wildlife: Crime

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether wildlife crime is addressed in any Home Office advice on sentencing. [12867]

Mr Blunt: The Government do not provide guidance on sentencing. That is the responsibility of the independent Sentencing Council and the Court of Appeal. The magistrates court sentencing guidelines, issued by the council, cover animal cruelty offences.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 13 September 2010

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Volcanoes

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the airline industry on compensation to those affected by the volcanic ash explosion; and if he will make a statement. [15037]

Mrs Villiers: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State discussed the issue of financial assistance to cover their losses arising from the disruption due to the volcanic ash cloud with UK airlines at a meeting on 1 June. Since then, he has written to UK airlines and other air transport representative bodies informing them of the Government's decision not to provide financial assistance in these circumstances. It must be for businesses to meet their own operating risks and the costs of their legal liabilities. The severe pressure on public finances also makes assistance unaffordable.

The Government expects air carriers to honour their obligations under the EU Denied Boarding and Cancellation Regulation 261 to provide assistance to passengers stranded abroad and to those wishing to claim a refund for cancelled flights.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what information his Department holds on the number of people aged between 60 and 64 in the Tyne and Wear concessionary travel scheme who received free bus travel in the latest period for which figures are available; [14747]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of people *(a)* of eligible age and *(b)* otherwise eligible in (i) England and (ii) the Tyne and Wear concessionary travel scheme who received free bus travel in the latest period for which figures are available. [14748]

Norman Baker: According to Office for National Statistics figures, taken at the mid-point of 2009, there are 11.5 million people aged 60 and over in England and 247,000 people aged 60 and over in Tyne and Wear, of which 64,000 people are aged 60 to 64. The Department for Transport does not have any figures for the number of people eligible for concessionary travel by virtue of their disability.

The last information held by the Department was that as of 6 April this year, almost 10 million smartcard concessionary passes had been issued since the introduction of the England-wide concession in April 2008, of which Nexus had issued 302,827 passes. This includes passes issued to both eligible older and disabled people. The Department holds no data about passes issued prior to April 2008, nor about how many of the passes issued are replacements or have subsequently been surrendered or withdrawn.

Dee Harbour

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to finalise the Dee Harbour Revision Order for publication. [13662]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 8 September 2010]*: I expect my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to determine this application from the Environment Agency and a related application from the Mostyn Docks Ltd. as soon as possible. Consideration of this case has taken some time partly in order that parties to the public inquiry should also be allowed the opportunity to comment on the report into the investigation of the grounding of the cargo vessel Thunder at the approaches to the Dee estuary.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12723]

Norman Baker: No such cases have been recorded centrally. However, a full review of all IT contracts, in order to provide a complete answer, would incur disproportionate cost.

Driving: Safety

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to implement the recommendation of the North Committee report on road safety and the drink-driving limit and bring forward legislative proposals for a reduction on the level of alcohol permitted for people to drive; and if he will make a statement. [14688]

Mike Penning: Sir Peter North's report covers a wide range of issues and makes 51 detailed recommendations, which we need to consider carefully with other Government Departments. In doing so it is important that we fully investigate the economic impact of any suggested changes to the law, taking account of the current financial and economic situation. We aim to respond to the report by the end of the year.

Highways Agency: Motor Vehicles

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on purchasing vehicles in the last 12 months. [12141]

Mike Penning: In 2009-10, the Highways Agency spent a total of £23 million on the purchase of new winter service vehicles (gritters).

The Highways Agency's previous winter service vehicles comprised 'Foden-Telstar' spreaders, which were between 12 to 17 year olds, thus requiring increasing amounts of maintenance to keep them operational. The equipment was falling behind with modern alternatives, which allow flexibility to adapt to different treatment techniques and materials, providing a more effective and efficient winter service with less environmental impact.

The replacement of these winter service vehicles was commissioned using a four-year framework contract. Total actual and forecast costs are as follows:

	£ million
2008-09 (actual)	18.9
2009-10 (actual)	23
2010-11 (actual and forecast)	[1]12.5

[1] Of which £6 million has been spent between April 2010 to August 2010.

The budget available for the final year of the framework contract cannot be confirmed until after the forthcoming comprehensive spending review.

The Highways Agency also spent £330,000 on a new SCRIM vehicle (Sideway force Coefficient Routine Investigation Machine) for measuring the road surface skid resistance.

Traffic officer vehicles are provided on a lease basis and the Highways Agency is charged a combined monthly fee that includes lease and maintenance. The total lease/maintenance cost of the vehicles in financial year 2009-10 was £3,757,000.

Public Transport: Disability

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve (a) access to and *(b)* safety on public transport for people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [14428]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport seeks to improve access to and safety on public transport, including for disabled people. For example, free off-peak local bus travel throughout England has given the opportunity for greater freedom and independence to around 11 million older and disabled people.

By law, all newly built or refurbished public transport vehicles must be accessible to disabled people. Over a third of all trains are already accessible, as is half the bus fleet. Deadlines have been set for when all trains, buses and coaches must be accessible. Disability legislation also covers infrastructure, such as bus and railway stations. These are becoming more accessible as buildings are built or renovated. Transport operators also have a legal duty to consider the needs of disabled people when publishing service information and providing booking and other facilities.

We are also seeking to ensure that those who travel have the confidence and basic skills to do so; that transport staff have the appropriate training to help people; and that passengers can travel in a safe environment. For example, just over 1,000 stations are currently accredited under the Secure Stations Scheme, and there are increasing numbers of help points and CCTV cameras on our public transport systems.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of a *(a)* fatality, *(b)* serious injury and *(c)* slight injury caused by a road accident. [14825]

Mike Penning: The information requested can be found in Table 2a in article 2 in "Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2008 Annual Report", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. Estimates using 2009 data will be published on 23 September 2010 in "Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2009 Annual Report."

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has commissioned recent research into the likely effects on the number of people *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured in road accidents of changes in the level of expenditure on road safety measures. [14827]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not commissioned specific recent research. However the STATS19 collision and casualty data received by the Department are routinely monitored to identify any emerging trends, which in turn is used to inform policy decision making.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were (i) killed, (ii) seriously injured and (iii) slightly injured in road accidents in each of the last five years. [14828]

Mike Penning: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reported child and adult road casualties by severity: GB 2005-09

		Number of casualties				
Casualty severity	*Age*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Killed	Child (0-15 years)	141	169	121	124	81
	Adult (16+years)	3,051	2,994	2,817	2,413	2,141
	All ages[1]	3,201	3,172	2,946	2,538	2,222
Seriously injured	Child (0-15 years)	3,331	3,125	2,969	2,683	2,590
	Adult (16+years)	25,031	25,057	24,285	22,898	21,758
	All ages[1]	28,954	28,673	27,774	26,034	24,690
Slightly injured	Child (0-15 years)	24,654	22,229	20,717	19,189	17,984
	Adult (16+years)	207,339	198,442	190,872	178,271	173,685
	All ages[1]	238,862	226,559	217,060	202,333	195,234
All casualties	Child (0-15 years)	28,126	25,523	23,807	21,996	20,655

Reported child and adult road casualties by severity: GB 2005-09

Casualty severity	*Age*	*Number of casualties*				
		2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
	Adult (16+years)	235,421	226,493	217,974	203,582	197,584
	All ages[1]	271,017	258,404	247,780	230,905	222,146

[1] Includes cases where age is not recorded

Travel: Concessions

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department was of the Metro Gold Card scheme in the last five financial years. [14565]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not provided any funding for the Nexus Gold Card scheme in the last five years.

The Metro Gold Card is a discretionary concession administered by Nexus, Tyne and Wear's Passenger Transport Executive. Therefore it is funded from Tyne and Wear's own resources.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with Nexus on plans for future funding of the Metro Gold Card. [14566]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not had any discussions with Nexus on its plans for future funding of the Metro Gold Card.

Concessionary travel in Tyne and Wear is administered by Nexus, Tyne and Wear's Passenger Transport Executive. The Department regularly meets the Passenger Transport Executive Group to discuss transport issues, including concessionary travel.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Board

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what terms and conditions of employment stipulated by the Agricultural Wages Board are not covered by *(a)* minimum wage legislation and *(b)* legislation relating to paid holidays. [14275]

Mr Paice: The majority of the terms and conditions currently set by the Agricultural Wages Board (AWB), such as a minimum rate of pay, holiday entitlement, sick pay and rest breaks will in future be covered by the minimum entitlements for such matters specified under the National Minimum Wage Act, or specified by other relevant employment legislation such as the working time regulations or the statutory sick pay rules.

The National Minimum Wage Act and the working time regulations do not make provision for the following entitlements which are currently covered by the agricultural wages order:

Specific rates of pay for overtime

Stand-by duty and night allowance

Entitlement to bereavement leave

Birth or adoption grant (currently of £60 per child)

Dog allowance

The agricultural wages order makes specific provision for:

Apprentice under the age of 19, or in the first year of their apprenticeship

Workers of compulsory school age

Students on a work placement of less than one year.

Specific provision for these categories of workers is not made under the national minimum wage legislation. However, such persons are entitled to employment rights and protections under the working time regulations, and the legislation dealing specifically with the employment of children and young people.

It is also important to note that the terms of a worker's employment contract which exist at the time the AWB is abolished will continue to apply until such time as the contract is varied by agreement between the employer and the worker, or until the contract comes to an end. This is the case whether the terms are written, verbally agreed or implied by custom and practice. If an employer makes changes to the terms of employment without the worker's agreement, this constitutes a breach of contract. The worker may have a claim for breach of contract, unfair dismissal or unlawful deduction of wages if the change relates to pay.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the future of the Agricultural Wages Board. [14327]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers have been in contact with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers over a range of issues, including the future of the Agricultural Wages Board. Officials from DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government are working together to ensure that the necessary transitional arrangements are managed effectively.

Agriculture: Pay

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average change in agricultural wages has been in each year since 1990. [14328]

Mr Paice: A time series of the average pay rates (and changes between years) for agricultural and horticultural workers from 1990 to 2009 is shown as follows. Results cover England and Wales.

	Full-time male regular workers			Full-time female regular workers			Part time male regular workers		
	Average earnings per hour	Change from the previous year		Average earnings per hour	Change from the previous year		Average earnings per hour	Change from the previous year	
Date[1, 2, 3]	£/hour	£/hour	%	£/hour	£/hour	%	£/hour	£/hour	%
September 1990	3.90	—	—	n/a	—	—	n/a	—	—
September 1991	4.30	0.40	10.1	3.66	—	—	n/a	—	—
September 1992	4.57	0.27	6.3	4.02	0.36	9.8	n/a	—	—
September 1993	4.71	0.13	2.9	4.24	0.27	6.8	n/a	—	—
September 1994	4.83	0.13	2.7	4.33	0.10	2.3	n/a	—	—
September 1995	5.03	0.20	4.1	4.37	0.04	0.8	n/a	—	—
September 1996	5.21	0.18	3.5	4.72	0.35	8.1	n/a	—	—
September 1997	5.49	0.28	5.4	4.77	0.05	1.0	n/a	—	—
September 1998	5.94	0.45	8.2	4.97	0.20	4.3	4.65	—	—
September 1999	5.92	-0.02	-0.3	5.31	0.34	6.8	5.15	0.50	10.8
September 2000	6.09	0.17	2.8	5.57	0.26	4.9	5.27	0.12	2.3
September 2001	6.42	0.33	5.4	5.48	-0.09	-1.6	5.59	0.32	6.1
September 2002	6.78	0.36	5.6	6.05	0.57	10.4	5.62	0.03	0.5
September 2003	6.66	-0.12	-1.7	6.09	0.04	0.7	5.91	0.29	5.2
September 2004	7.16	0.50	7.5	6.41	0.32	5.2	6.13	0.22	3.6
September 2005	7.40	0.23	3.3	6.42	0.01	0.2	6.99	0.87	14.2
September 2006	7.39	-0.00	-0.1	6.34	-0.08	-1.2	6.64	-0.35	-5.0
September 2007	7.50	0.11	1.5	6.84	0.50	7.8	6.46	-0.18	-2.7
September 2008	7.64	0.14	1.9	6.95	0.11	1.7	7.12	0.66	10.2
September 2009	8.19	0.54	7.1	7.25	0.30	4.3	7.61	0.48	6.8

	Part time female regular workers			Casual male workers			Casual female workers		
	Average earnings per hour	Change from the previous year		Average earnings per hour	Change from the previous year		Average earnings per hour	Change from the previous year	
Date[1, 2, 3]	£/hour	£/hour	%	£/hour	£/hour	%	£/hour	£/hour	%
September 1998	4.74	—	—	4.69	—	—	4.06	—	—
September 1999	4.63	-0.11	-2.3	4.89	0.20	4.3	4.29	0.23	5.7
September 2000	4.80	0.17	3.7	5.10	0.21	4.3	4.45	0.16	3.7
September 2001	5.27	0.47	9.8	5.51	0.41	8.0	4.75	0.30	6.7
September 2002	5.20	-0.07	-1.3	5.55	0.04	0.7	5.30	0.55	11.6
September 2003	5.43	0.23	4.4	5.92	0.37	6.7	5.12	-0.18	-3.4
September 2004	5.63	0.20	3.7	6.10	0.18	3.0	5.36	0.25	4.8
September 2005	6.00	0.37	6.6	6.29	0.19	3.1	5.73	0.36	6.8
September 2006	6.17	0.17	2.8	6.39	0.10	1.6	5.87	0.15	2.5
September 2007	6.56	0.40	6.4	6.78	0.39	6.1	5.78	-0.10	-1.7
September 2008	6.81	0.24	3.7	6.77	-0.02	-0.2	6.20	0.43	7.4
September 2009	6.82	0.02	0.3	6.88	0.11	1.6	6.46	0.26	4.2

[1] On 31 December 1990, the interview-based Wages and Employment Inquiry was terminated and replaced on 1 January 1991 with the postal Earnings and Hours Survey of Agricultural and Horticultural Workers. Therefore, figures for 1990 and 1991 may not be directly comparable.

[2] For the period 1991 to 1997, figures for males relate to average earning for the 12 month period ending in September. For females the figures relate to the average over the three month period from June to September for the period 1991 to 1994 and for the 12 month period ending in September for 1995 to 1997. Between 1991 and 1997 information was only collected for full-time workers.

[3] From 1998 to 2002, the Earnings and Hours survey was changed from a quarterly to an annual survey so results for these years are only based on pay rates for the month of September each year. In all other years (except those specified in [1]), pay rates have been averaged across the four quarters to give overall annual averages.

Note:

Results are based on a small sample survey so are subject to a degree of sampling variation. An indication of the sampling variation can be found from the latest statistical notice:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/earningshours/documents/earnings-hours.pdf.

Source:

Defra Earnings and Hours Survey of Agricultural and Horticultural Workers—England and Wales.

Animal Products: Clones

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the use of cloned animals in food production; and if she will make a statement. [14377]

Mr Paice: The Government are mindful of the interest surrounding this emerging technology and its use in food production. The European Food Safety Authority has noted that, whilst relatively limited data are available, the available evidence indicates that food from healthy cloned cattle and pigs and their offspring does not present any risks to consumers. Food derived from cloned animals is nevertheless subject to the European regulation on novel foods and cannot be marketed without an authorisation under that regulation. The

Food Standards Agency has advised that this is also the case for food from the descendants of cloned animals. To date no applications for authorisation have been made and no authorisations have been issued.

Looking forward, European Union Agriculture Ministers have collectively asked the European Commission to produce a detailed report on cloning by the end of 2010 and this will provide further basis for evidence-based decision making at EU level. We will be looking carefully at the Commission's report as we consider this subject further.

Birds: Conservation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to protect the *(a)* corncrake, *(b)* bittern, *(c)* black grouse, *(d)* black-tailed godwit, *(e)* cirl bunting and *(f)* turtle dove population; and if she will make a statement. [14606]

Richard Benyon: All six species (including their nests, eggs and young) are fully protected by domestic legislation in England: the corncrake, bittern, black-tailed godwit, cirl bunting and turtle dove through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the black grouse (which is a quarry species) through the Game Acts. The corncrake, bittern, black-tailed godwit and cirl bunting are listed on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Act, so special penalties apply to those who disturb these species whilst at, on or near their nests. The corncrake and bittern are on Annex 1 of EU Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Where present in appropriate numbers, these species are recognised as interest features of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and part of the qualifying interest of special protection areas. Many also occur on reserves managed by Natural England and/or its non-governmental organisation partners.

As a result of recent or historic population declines, all six species appear on the UK 'Red' list of 'Birds of Conservation Concern' meaning they are of high conservation concern, and all are recognised as priority species by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Effective conservation action for these species is a thus seen as a high priority, both for Government through its agencies (notably Natural England) and for non-governmental organisations such as the RSPB, with which we work in close partnership.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the reasons for recent changes in the number of bovine tuberculosis herd incidents. [14323]

Mr Paice: There has been a welcome recent fall in the number of herds disclosing with reactors and a resulting reduction in the number of cattle being compulsorily slaughtered. This is part of a downward trend that has been observed for some time but we have seen similar declines over the last nine years only to then see disease levels rise again. It is not possible (and will not be for some time) to know with any certainty what may be causing these changes and whether they are therefore temporary or permanent.

The fact remains that incidence of bovine TB in parts of England is still far too high and we continue to take the fight against the disease very seriously, not least because of the serious impact it has on farmers.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in badgers; and if she will make a statement. [14426]

Mr Paice: The coalition has committed, as part of a package of measures, to develop affordable options for a carefully-managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine TB.

We are currently developing proposals which we plan to publish for public consultation later this month.

Business: Waste Disposal

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to introduce responsibility deals for business waste. [13713]

Richard Benyon: The potential for using responsibility deals for all types of waste is being explored as part of the ongoing Review of Waste Policy, the initial findings of which will be available in spring 2011.

Carbon Emissions: Business

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Roger Williams) of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 252W, on carbon emissions: business, whether preliminary information is yet available on the number and proportion of UK-listed companies which have reported on their greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to her Department's guidance in 2009-10. [13655]

Mr Paice: No further information is available on the number and proportion of UK-listed companies which have reported on their greenhouse gas emissions using the guidance published by DEFRA and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. It is expected that some information will become available from reports on the findings of surveys of businesses, which are due to be published in October 2010.

Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets she has set for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from peatland and wetland; and if she will make a statement. [14780]

Richard Benyon: The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a system of national carbon budgets, which place caps on the total quantity of greenhouse gas emissions emitted in the UK over a specified time. Each carbon budget covers a five year period, with the first budget running from 2008-2012. DEFRA policy areas are currently responsible for an estimated 15% of UK emissions, and DEFRA is committed to sustainably reducing these emissions in order to help the UK meet its carbon budgets.

There are no specific targets set for emissions from peatland and wetland, but we are continuing to examine options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Any reductions would count towards the overall UK carbon budget.

Common Fisheries Policy

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the consideration of regionalisation in the review of the common fisheries policy; and if she will make a statement. [13822]

Richard Benyon: One of the UK's key priorities for common fisheries policy (CFP) reform is to move away from the current centralised system that attempts to micro-manage fishermen's daily activities. Genuinely strategic decisions should continue to be taken at EU level, but more responsibility for implementation can, and should, be devolved to member states, and those closest to the fisheries.

In order to pursue this agenda, the UK is engaging with other member states, the European Commission, European Parliament, industry, and major non-governmental organisations in order to establish a way forward that delegates the maximum responsibility to those closest to the issues, whilst complying with the relevant treaty obligations.

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13922]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the number of payments to suppliers made by *(a)* the core Department, *(b)* all but one of the executive agencies and *(c)* the main non-departmental bodies, for the financial year 2009-10.

Fiscal year 2009-10

Number of payments

	< 30 Days	*30 to 60*	*60 to 90*	*>90*	*Total*
Core DEFRA	30,105	943	227	294	31,569
Executive agencies	86,528	1,471	332	362	88,693
NDPBs	38,227	3,685	743	395	43,050
	154,860	6,099	1,302	1,051	

Data for the following are not included in the above and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Executive agencies

Rural Payments Agency aims to comply with current Government guidance in terms of prompt supplier invoice payment where the target is to pay 80% of correctly rendered invoices within five working days.

It is against this target that RPA measures its supplier invoice payment performance. RPA does not measure payment performance for other time periods and does not have this information readily available.

97.4% of correctly rendered invoices were paid within five working days for the most recent period of April to August 2010.

Non-departmental public bodies

The Environment Agency paid the following number of payments to suppliers in August 2010:

(i) 7,090 within 30 days;

(ii) 711 over 30 days;

(iii) 270 over 60 days;

(iv) 343 over 90 days from the invoice date.

During the year 2008-09 EA paid over 98% of invoices from suppliers within 30 days. Creditor days, calculated on an average basis for the year, according to the formula in the Companies Act 2006 (Directors Report) were 9.8 days for 2008-09.

Data are not included for the following executive NDPBs:

Agricultural Wages Board for England And Wales

Agricultural Wages Committee.

The Department's advisory NDPB's are not included.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities had a two-weekly refuse collection service in 2009-10; and whether her Department provided financial incentives to those authorities to establish such services. [14068]

Richard Benyon: A list of English local authorities that provided alternate weekly collection (AWC) services in 2009-10 will be placed in the Library of the House. Data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are not currently available for 2009-10.

Neither DEFRA nor the Department for Communities and Local Government have provided any financial incentives for AWCs.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to local authorities which operate alternate weekly waste collections of introducing weekly waste collections. [14276]

Richard Benyon: The Government believe in localism and it is for local authorities to determine what waste collection system works best for their local areas in consultation with their residents. As part of the Government's review of waste policies, we want to help councils to deliver the quality and frequency of services their customers want while delivering our commitment to move towards a zero-waste economy.

Current estimates suggest that the cost of change would be in the region of £140 million in the first year, and £530 million over the period of the Spending Review.

Environment Protection: Gibraltar

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department provides assistance to *(a)* the government of Gibraltar and *(b)* the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society to protect the (i) UK-Gibraltar and (ii) Southern Waters Site of Community Importance under the EU Habitats Directive; and if she will make a statement. [14463]

Richard Benyon: The UK is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the birds and habitats directives in Gibraltar. However, domestic implementation, in the first instance, rests with the Government of Gibraltar. DEFRA provides administrative support for correspondence between the European Commission and the Government of Gibraltar in regard to obligations under the birds and habitats directives. DEFRA also facilitates the provision of technical assistance from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) at the request of the Government of Gibraltar.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial penalty her Department incurs if it withdraws from an *(a)* Entry Level Stewardship and *(b)* Higher Level Stewardship Scheme agreement. [14272]

Mr Paice: Withdrawal from an agreement before the end of the agreement period without legitimate excuse would be a breach of contract. The agreement-holder may be entitled to breach of contract remedies (including damages). Furthermore, under EU law, payments made under an agreement must be reimbursed in full where one party withdraws early. DEFRA would bear these costs if it withdrew from the agreement before the end of the agreement period.

Agreements that run beyond 2015 are subject to review in 2012 because under the current EU legal framework, the EU Commission (which part funds the payments) does not have legal authority to make payments beyond that point. If the current EU legal framework was not replaced by a new framework for payments beyond 2015, DEFRA would be entitled to withdraw from agreements extending beyond that period with no liability for breach of contract or reimbursement costs.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the cost to her Department of terminating *(a)* Entry Level Stewardship and *(b)* Higher Level Stewardship Scheme agreements before they end. [14273]

Mr Paice: No assessment has been made of the cost to the Department of terminating Entry Level Stewardship or Higher Level Stewardship agreements before they end.

Fly-tipping: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to prevent fly-tipping in Coventry. [14155]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with representatives of local authorities across England, the Environment Agency, Keep Britain Tidy, landowners and other members of the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group to better understand the causes of fly-tipping, and the best approach to reducing incidences of fly-tipping at a local level.

DEFRA works with organisations such as Keep Britain Tidy to support local authorities with training, guidance and advice on their fly-tipping prevention strategies. DEFRA also funds the Flycapture system which records information on fly-tipping incidents dealt with by local authorities as well as enforcement action taken, allowing DEFRA and local authorities to assess the scale of the problem and prioritise action.

We will be considering how best to target our future activity on fly-tipping as part of the current review of waste policies. Local authorities, including those in the Coventry area, and other interested parties have been invited to submit views on this, and waste policy and delivery in England more generally, as part of a Call for Evidence. I would encourage all those with an interest to submit comments via the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-review/index.htm

Food Production

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what further steps she plans to take to encourage local food production and consumption. [14421]

Mr Paice: To meet the growing demand for more food with a local and regional provenance, our food and drink producers' access to market must be improved. We are providing funding under the Rural Development Programme for England for a range of measures aimed at supporting delivery organisations in the region, individual food producers and retail outlets, food hubs and farmers' markets.

I welcome the fact that retailers have put in place policies aimed at increasing the availability of regional and local food on their shelves. This provides opportunities for UK farmers to capture a greater market share by becoming more competitive.

Research shows consumers are increasingly concerned about the origins of their food, and the Government are committed to clearer origin labelling to provide consumers with the information they need to make informed choices about the food they buy.

We are also committed to ensuring that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

Food Supply

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution her Department has made to the Strategic Defence and Security Review in respect of UK food security. [14351]

Mr Paice: I can confirm that DEFRA has contributed to work on the Strategic Defence and Security Review with regard to food supply, and other areas of departmental responsibility.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the minimum number of days supply of food required for the UK to maintain an acceptable level of food security; [14353]

(2) how many days supply of food are routinely stored within the UK. [14354]

Mr Paice: We do not hold information on the total food held in the country. However in the 2008-09 marketing year (the latest actual figures available), the UK cereal closing stocks at 30 June 2009 were 4.169 million tonnes of cereals, representing around 73 days of consumption for that year. For the year ending 30 June 2010, forecast estimates equate to around 67 days. The average of cereal stocks held between 2003-04 and 2007-08 were typically equivalent to 50 to 55 days worth of consumption.

We work closely with the food industries on food supply chain resilience, and in 2009 DEFRA published a comprehensive assessment of UK Food Security (updated in January 2010) which shows that the UK enjoys a high level of food security. The assessment analyses a wide range of indicators (including on cereal stocks as mentioned above) and evidence for assessing UK food security structured around six themes:

global availability;

global resource sustainability;

UK availability and access;

UK food chain resilience;

food security at household level; and

safety and confidence in our food supply.

It remains one of DEFRA's priorities to ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food in the face of future challenges.

Food: Labelling

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in introducing an accurate country-of-origin labelling scheme for food products; and if she will make a statement. [14589]

Mr Paice: As set out in our Structural Reform Plan, we want to ensure that consumers have confidence in origin claims that are being made. We know that consumers are particularly concerned about dairy and meat products. We are working with the food industry, retailers and others to encourage better labelling, greater compliance with Government best practice guidance and developing clear principles that can be followed. I have written to key organisations in the food industry and retailers, seeking collaboration to taking this forward.

Food: Waste Disposal

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to bring forward proposals to require the separation of food waste in municipal waste collection. [14388]

Richard Benyon: The Government believe that local authorities, working with local communities, are best placed to decide on the most appropriate options for waste management, including collection. For example, there are differences in what suits urban areas compared to suburban or rural areas in terms of the most appropriate waste collection types and frequencies.

The Review of Waste Policy announced in June will look at policies surrounding food waste, to see what can be done to further reduce the amount that ends up in landfill.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the use of genetically-modified crops; and if she will make a statement. [14378]

Mr Paice: The details of the Government's policy on GM crops are currently under consideration, but all policies will be based on robust scientific evidence.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations she (i) consulted and (ii) plans to consult before making a recommendation on the introduction of mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reporting under section 85 of the Climate Change Act 2008; [13578]

(2) what account her Department plans to take of the outcome of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills consultation on the future of narrative reporting in making its recommendation on the introduction of mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reporting under section 85 of the Climate Change Act 2008. [13579]

Mr Paice: DEFRA received 132 responses to the 2009 consultation on the draft guidance to businesses on how to measure and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, gathering a wide range of views.

The Secretary of State will take a decision on mandating GHG emissions reporting on the basis of the evidence being gathered for the report to be laid before Parliament by 1 December 2010, on the contribution that reporting makes to the UK meeting its climate change objectives. In taking the decision, the Secretary of State will take into account the outcome of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills' (BIS) current consultation on the future of narrative reporting. DEFRA continues to work closely with BIS and the Department of Energy and Climate Change in coming to a decision.

If a decision is taken to introduce mandatory reporting in principle, the draft regulations will be subject to a public consultation.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 90W, on hazardous substances: waste disposal; for what reasons she has no plans for a public inquiry; and if she will hold a public inquiry following the Dutch court judgement on 23 July 2010 on Trafigura. [13481]

Richard Benyon: The UK was not involved in this incident in Cote d'Ivoire. The vessel involved was a not a UK vessel, the waste did not come from the UK and the cargo was not loaded in the UK. It does not appear to be appropriate, therefore, for a public inquiry to be held in the UK.

Japanese Knotweed: Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to eliminate Japanese knotweed, with particularly reference to Manchester, Gorton constituency. [14653]

Richard Benyon: We have no plans to attempt eradication of Japanese knotweed. The cost of a national eradication programme using current techniques would be prohibitively expensive (estimated to be at least £1.5 billion) and is likely to be unsuccessful given the widespread distribution of this invasive species.

DEFRA has been one of the main funding partners in a long-running project researching the possibility of identifying a biological control agent for Japanese knotweed. A controlled release of the highly specialist psyllid *Aphalara itadori* is now under way to help control this plant. If successful, this insect should restrict its growth, slow its capacity to spread vigorously and enhance the effectiveness of management effort, although it would not eradicate it altogether.

As with other species, management of Japanese knotweed is primarily the responsibility of the landowner. Strategic, widespread control is currently not the sole responsibility of any statutory organisation.

Nature Conservation: Crime

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* proceeded against and *(b)* convicted of an offence under the provisions of the (i) Badgers Act 1991, (ii) Deer Act 1991, (iii) Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and (iv) Hunting Act 2004 in (A) 2008 and (B) 2009; and if she will make a statement. [14211]

Richard Benyon: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the provisions of the Badgers Act 1991, Deer Act 1991, Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and Hunting Act 2004 in 2008 can be viewed in the table.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of selected offences related to wild mammals and the Hunting Act 2004, England and Wales, 2008[1, 2, 3]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Badgers Act 1973 as amended by Criminal Justice Act 1991 S.26 and Badgers Act 1991 S.1	Offences of cruelty to badgers and special protection for badgers and their setts	22	11
Badgers (further protection) Act 1991 S.1	Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	14	11
Deer Act 1991	Killing or injuring deer by shooting, trap, snares etc.	4	1
Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	Offences under this Act	6	5
Hunting Act 2004	Offences under this Act	44	33
Total		90	61

[1] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Rainforests

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to increase public awareness of the effects of illegal logging on the climate and rainforest. [13425]

Mr Paice: Awareness of the effects of illegal logging is important as UK consumers have every right to know how their purchases impact on other parts of the world, and that responsible UK companies are able to trade on a level playing field with others in the timber trade. Agreement was recently reached on the EU Timber Due Diligence Regulation, which aims to eradicate illegal timber from the EU market, attracting media interest, notably from the BBC and *The Sunday Times*.

We will seek to take advantage of future opportunities to publicise the work we are doing in this area, and to reiterate the Government's commitment to tackling illegal logging. We work closely with non-governmental organisations and the timber industry, and will use these relationships to further increase public awareness of the effects of illegal logging.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to improve cross-departmental co-operation to tackle tropical deforestation. [13897]

Mr Paice: Tropical deforestation has negative repercussions for actions to combat climate change, halt biodiversity loss and foster development in some of the world's poorest communities. Therefore it is vital that UK efforts to combat deforestation are co-ordinated. As well as cross-departmental co-operation at official level, regular trilateral meetings between the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the Secretary of State for International Development ensure that action to tackle deforestation is co-ordinated across Government.

Rights of Way

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she next plans to publish guidance on design standards and legal requirements for gates and stiles on public rights of way. [14782]

Richard Benyon: We are currently considering whether we should publish guidance to local authorities and, if so, what form it should take.

Rural Payments Agency

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total cost to the public purse was of fines issued by the European Union to the Rural Payments Agency and its predecessors for failures related to weaknesses in mapping and insufficient checks on claimants in each year since 1993. [14401]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* The Rural Payments Agency, and formerly MAFF, have been disallowed the following amounts under area-based aid schemes.

Scheme	*Scheme years*	*Value of disallowance (£ million)*	*Summary of reason for disallowance*
Single Payment Scheme (SPS)	2005 and 2006	88.3	Perceived weaknesses in Rural Land Register, administrative procedures for controls and cross checks, elaboration of risk analysis, performance of on-the-spot checks and calculation of sanctions
Arable Area Payments Scheme (AAPS)	2003 and 2004	54.9	Perceived weaknesses in on-the-spot checks using remote sensing
AAPS	2001	11.5	Perceived weaknesses in quality of remote sensing

There is no disallowance associated with this issue prior to 2001. To date no disallowance has been proposed against the Single Payment Scheme after the 2006 scheme year.

Stray Dogs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of stray dogs. [14210]

Mr Paice: A consultation on the legislation relating to dog control and encouraging responsible dog ownership recently closed, and we will need to review the responses to this before considering any future action. In addition, action can be taken under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 against those who fail to look after their animals.

This year the Government issued a code of practice to promote the welfare of dogs, and encourages all responsible pet owners to have their pets microchipped.

Tides: Medway Towns

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the risk of flooding in the Medway towns from a surge tide coinciding with a spring tide; and what assessment she has made of likely changes to that level of risk over the next fifty years. [13861]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency assessment of flood risk is the likelihood of flooding occurring in any given year expressed as a percentage. The Environment Agency has assessed the tidal flood risk to the Medway Towns, considering a 5% (1 in 20 year event), 0.5% (1 in 200 year event) and 0.1% (1 in 1000 year event) chance of flooding, now and in 50 years time.

This assessment has been made taking into account the defences in place and the chance of peak surge coinciding with a spring tide.

Event type	*Number of properties at risk*	
	2010	*2060*
5% (1 in 20 years)	70	240
0.5% (1 in 200 years)	255	770
0.1% (1 in 1,000 years)	700	1,155

Wheat: Prices

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of changes in global wheat prices on food prices in the UK. [14270]

Mr Paice: Despite international wheat prices rising by some 50% since the start of July, a global wheat shortage is unlikely due to high levels of stocks being carried globally from previous record crops. In the UK, wheat accounts for less than 10% of the cost of a typical loaf of bread, and cereal feed costs account for up to 15% of the retail value of pork and chicken. In the absence of a sustained surge in grain prices, or sharp rises in energy prices, the overall effect on consumers should be limited. The Department will continue to monitor the situation.

Wood: China

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in her Department's joint study to assess options for a Chinese timber legality verification scheme. [14489]

Mr Paice: Studies on markets and comparisons of timber legality verification systems have been completed. We are currently working in collaboration with the Chinese Government on the preliminary recommendations for options to develop a system to verify the legality of China's timber imports and exports.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Algeria

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Algeria. [14221]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has no immediate plans to visit Algeria.

Arms Trade: Treaties

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN Secretary-General on negotiations towards an international arms trade treaty; and if he will make a statement. [14225]

Mr Hague: Whilst I have not yet discussed the arms trade treaty negotiations with the UN Secretary-General, I look forward to doing so at the General Assembly. This Government have made clear their continued support for the UN process towards an international arms trade treaty. The UK played a full and active role in the first phase of the UN negotiations which took place in New York in July 2010.

Burma: Political Prisoners

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken in relation to the treatment of the Generation 88 Burmese activists Htay Kywe, Mie Mie and Zaw Htet Ko Ko. [14222]

Mr Hague: The arrest in 2007, of Htay Kywe, Mie Mie and Zaw Htet Ko Ko and their subsequent long term imprisonment, were actions by the military Government of Burma designed to keep the leaders of the 1988 Generation Students movement out of politics. We are aware of reports that Zaw Htete Ko Ko is suffering from medical problems and that many detainees suffer ill treatment and are held in harsh conditions far from their families. The Coalition Government have sustained international attention on the plight of all political prisoners in Burma and the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), publicly endorsed Amnesty International's campaign for the release of the three leaders. In my meetings with ASEAN and other regional Ministers, I have specifically raised the UK's continuing concern over political prisoners. Our embassy in Rangoon is monitoring these specific cases closely and our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises the need for the release of all political prisoners with ministers in the Burmese military government and will continue to do so. We will raise the issue of Burma's political prisoners in the forthcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council and other multilateral meetings.

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken in relation to the arrests of the Burmese ethnic Karenni political activists Khun Bedu, Khan Kawrio and Khun Dee De. [14223]

Mr Hague: The arrest in May 2008, of Khun Bedu, Khun Kawrio and Khun Dee De by the military regime of Burma and their long prison sentences are part of a concerted effort to suppress the legitimate demands of Karenni and other ethnic communities. The Minister responsible for our relations with South East Asia, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), raised Burma at the EU-ASEAN meeting on 26 May 2010, at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was present. He made it clear that the continued detention of all political prisoners is unacceptable and that a process of inclusive dialogue and reconciliation with the ethnic groups is essential for the future stability of Burma.

G8 leaders released a statement urging the regime to release without delay all political prisoners, with strong UK support. Our ambassador in Rangoon also repeatedly raises the need for the release of all political prisoners with ministers in the Burmese military government, and will continue to do so.

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13923]

Alistair Burt: The following table shows the breakdown of payments to suppliers in August 2010.

	Number of invoices processed in August 2010	*Paid within 30 days (from the date of the invoice)*	*Paid between 31-60 days*	*Paid between 61-90 days*	*Paid over 90 days*
FCO (UK)	2,181	1,913	268	129	83
FCO Services	999	990	7	2	0
Wilton Park	297	[1]245	46	1	5
British Council	6,342	6,205	71	21	45

[1] Of which 61 were paid within 10 days.

These payment times are measured from the "date of the invoice" however the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), its agencies and non-governmental public bodies all support the Government's Prompt Payment Initiative which measures performance from date of the receipt of a valid supplier invoice.

In accordance with the prompt payment guidelines for Government Departments the FCO paid 1,712 supplier invoices in August under this initiative of which 97.4% were paid within 10 days of receipt. FCO Services paid 96% of their invoices and British Council paid 90% of their invoices within the 10-day threshold.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) region of England and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12480]

Alistair Burt: The cost of pension contributions incurred by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its non-departmental bodies and agencies is as follows:

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
FCO (inc. Wilton Park)	64.92	58.62	58.11	56.70
British Council	11.01	14.58	15.06	13.60
BBC World Service	9.50	9.20	10.70	10.60
Westminster Foundation for Democracy	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.13

[1] Forecast.

The above figures include the pension contributions of UK-based staff and those who are locally engaged.

Provisions made for staff leaving the FCO as a result of early retirement exercises are not included in the above figures. Further information on such costs is available in the FCO Resource Accounts published each year by the FCO and the annual reports published by the British Council, the Westminster Fund for Democracy and the BBC World Service.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12345]

Alistair Burt: The information requested is set out in the following table.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total spent by FCO on rental of properties in UK	1,722,750	1,725,250	1,618,312	1,756,000	1,194,487
Total spent in South East	82,500	85,000	150,000	150,000	331,487
Total spent in London	1,640,250	1,640,250	1,468,312	1,606,000	863,000
Total spent in England	1,722,750	1,725,250	1,618,312	1,756,000	1,194,487

Expenditure has increased in the south-east region due to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) successfully relocating a number of roles from our London offices to the Milton Keynes area in line with the recommendations of the Lyons Review. As of March 2010, 442 roles had been moved from central London.

France: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on incidents of anti-Semitism in France since July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [14258]

Mr Lidington: On 6 September 2010 French Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux stated that there had been 47 actions and 190 threats of anti-Semitism recorded for the first three months of 2010. The Minister reiterated the French Government's condemnation of any act of anti-Semitism. We do not have more recent statistics.

The Government condemn anti-Semitism and all forms of racism.

Hezbollah

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the establishment of facilities in Syria for the production of missiles to be supplied to Hezbollah; what reports he has received on the source of funding for the facility; and if he will make a statement. [13521]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports of Syrian facilitation of missiles to Hezbollah. I raised my concern with Syrian Foreign Minister Muallem during my visit to the region in July.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on the transfer of weapons from Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon, with particular reference to Scud missile transfers. [13523]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by recent reports of weapons transfers to Hezbollah, including Israel's concerns that Scud missiles have been transferred.

During my recent visit to Lebanon I raised the issue with Prime Minister Hariri and underlined the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701 which calls for the disarmament of all armed groups.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports of and *(b)* representations on the recent blog post by HM Ambassador to Lebanon on the death of the late Sheikh Fadlallah he has received; whether he has taken any steps in consequence; whether he has discussed the matter with his counterparts in (i) Israel, (ii) Lebanon, (iii) Egypt and (iv) the United States; and if he will make a statement. [13525]

Alistair Burt: The ambassador expressed a personal view on Sayyed Fadlallah, describing the man as she knew him. The blog did not fully reflect Government policy and has since been removed.

The blog received widespread commentary, getting coverage in both the UK and the region, with a range of reactions.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister raised the matter with me during my recent visit to Lebanon in July.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the present locations of Hezbollah military capability in Lebanon, with particular reference to infrastructure located alongside civilian installations. [13526]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by Hezbollah's own claims that it possesses significant military capabilities. We assess that since the end of the 2006 Lebanon conflict Hezbollah has replenished its holdings of both short and long-range rockets and missiles.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of the UNIFIL mission to fulfil its mandate in respect of asserting the return of the effective authority of the government of Lebanon *(a)* south and *(b)* north of the Litani River, with particular reference to monitoring Hezbollah military activity. [13527]

Alistair Burt: UN Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) plays a vital and positive role in maintaining peace and security in southern Lebanon. However it faces a number of challenges in working to achieve this. These have recently been underlined by the attacks on UNIFIL peacekeepers south of the Litani river in early July and increased tensions on the Israel/Lebanon border.

The UK supported recent press comments by the Security Council condemning the July attacks on UNIFIL peacekeepers, and calling for UNIFIL's security to be respected so that it can fulfil its mandate.

I also discussed these points with the Lebanese Government, during my visit to the region on 13-14 July. We continue to support UNIFIL, and to press for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

I should note that UNIFIL does not have a mandate for action north of the Litani river.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the comments of HM Ambassador to Lebanon on the death of the late Sheikh Fadlallah represent a change in British policy towards Hezbollah; and if he will make a statement. [13799]

Alistair Burt: No, the ambassador's comments expressed a personal view and do not represent a change in our policy on Hezbollah.

Human Rights

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings on human rights policy he has had with non-governmental organisations since his appointment. [14228]

Mr Hague: Overseas visits have precluded my holding such meetings so far but I am looking forward to seeing some of them this autumn. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers have met a wide range of human rights non-governmental organisations (NGOs) since the new Government took office, including Amnesty International UK, Human Rights Watch, UNICEF, Global Witness, Saferworld, Article 19, Womankind and Minority Rights Group to discuss the government's human rights priorities. FCO Ministers have also met NGOs to discuss the specific situation in certain countries prior to their visits.

Human Rights Annual Report 2010

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff worked on the Annual Report on Human Rights during April 2010. [14603]

Mr Hague: The 2009 Annual Report on Human Rights was launched in March 2010. Over 50 staff in London were involved in writing the 2009 report, drawing on contributions from our overseas missions. During April 2010, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials distributed the report, responded to questions about it and sought feedback on its use. Staff in our missions around the world continue to monitor and report on human rights and this will contribute to the reporting I will lay before Parliament next year.

India: Nuclear Power

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Prime Minister received assurances from the Indian Government on the separation of India's military and civil nuclear programmes before his announcement of civil nuclear co-operation. [13504]

Alistair Burt: In negotiating its exception from the Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines, India reaffirmed a number of voluntary non-proliferation commitments, including the phased separation of its civilian nuclear facilities. Since 2008, India has made significant progress in this area, and a number of India's civilian nuclear facilities are now under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The UK Government urge India to continue this process of separation. UK export control arrangements will only permit trade in cases where the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials or technology is for civilian use only, and export licences will continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have received representations from any other government party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on the UK's proposed civil nuclear co-operation with India. [13505]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government have not held detailed discussions with other states regarding our civil nuclear co-operation with India. Together with other nuclear supplier states, the UK continues to monitor the international transfer of sensitive nuclear goods and technology through the Nuclear Suppliers Group regime.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Iran on the imprisonment of members of the Baha'i community in that country; and if he will make a statement. [14381]

Alistair Burt: I met with the Iranian ambassador on 18 August to discuss this and a range of other human rights concerns. I made it clear that the UK remains extremely concerned by the sentencing of the seven Baha'i leaders to 20 years imprisonment. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had already made it clear, in his statement of 11 August 2010, that we find these sentences entirely unacceptable, and that the UK and international community see it as unacceptable victimisation of the Baha'i faith by the Iranian state.

We will continue to remind Iran of the international commitments it has freely signed up to, and urge the Iranian Government to cease its harassment of the Baha'i minority, and to respect the rights of the many members of minority groups. These groups continue to face arrest and lengthy prison sentences, often on vaguely worded charges of acting against national security.

Iran: Missiles

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the range of any ballistic missiles held by Iran. [13524]

Alistair Burt: The Iranian ballistic missile programme continues to be of serious proliferation concern, primarily because of the missiles' potential utility as weapons of mass destruction delivery systems. Recent Iranian technical advances, including the launch of the Qiam missile in August, have increased the range of the missiles and reduced launch preparation time.

The international community has expressed serious concern about Iran's nuclear programme through six successive UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR). UNSCR 1929 specifically prohibits Iran from undertaking activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Iran: Uranium

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the quality of all *(a)* enriched uranium and *(b)* 20 per cent. enriched uranium held by Iran. [13522]

Alistair Burt: The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued a number of reports on Iran, all making clear that Iran had shown no sign of suspending its enrichment-related activities and continued to stockpile uranium, as required by six UN Security Council resolutions and numerous IAEA resolutions. The estimates in his May report showed Iran had produced 2,427 kg of low enriched uranium since the start of operations in February 2007, and that Iran had also produced a total of 5.7 kg of uranium enriched to nearly 20%, a significant step towards weapons grade enrichment.

Libya: Abdelbaset al-Megrahi

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what documents the Government have made available to the United States in relation to Abdelbaset al-Megrahi since 20 July 2010; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such document; and if he will make a statement. [14882]

Alistair Burt: On 29 July the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided to the Senate all related documents that had been previously released under the Freedom of Information Act in 2009. The FCO, Ministry of Justice and Scotland Office all released documents under the Act. Copies of these documents will be placed in the House Library.

The FCO also drew the US Senate's attention to FCO, Ministry of Justice, and Scottish Executive correspondence that was released into the public domain on 1 September 2009. The web links to these documents are:

Ministry of Justice

http://search.justice.gov.uk/kbroker/justice/justice/search/search.lsim?qt=megrahi&sr=0&nh=10&cs=iso-8859-1&sc=justice&sm=0&sf=&mt=0&ha=1178

Scottish Executive

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/legal/lockerbie/correspondence

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/news/11646391/20779431/al-megrahi-miliband-010909

Malaysia

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of UK relations with Malaysia; and if he will make a statement. [14255]

Alistair Burt: Our close relations with Malaysia are founded on strong cultural and historical connections. We have significant trade, defence and education links, share membership of the Commonwealth and regularly cooperate on a range of shared priorities. We are committed to strengthening our relations further as part of our enhanced engagement with the world's emerging powers. This is already under way:

- my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Foreign Minister Anifah on 2 August; and
- my noble Friend right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford visited Malaysia on 11 August.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the shooting of four residents in the Beit Hagai settlement near Hebron on 31 August 2010; and if he will make a statement. [14257]

Alistair Burt: Four Israelis were killed in an attack on 31 August 2010. The military wing of Hamas has claimed responsibility.

We condemn such despicable acts of terrorism, which must not be allowed to derail the talks. We call on all parties to refrain from any activity that could undermine the search for a just and lasting settlement.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the shooting of two civilians at Rimonim Junction, east of Ramallah, in September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [14259]

Alistair Burt: Two Israelis were wounded on the West Bank in an attack on their car on 1 September. The military wing of Hamas has claimed responsibility. This followed an attack on 31 August in which four Israelis were killed.

We condemn such despicable acts of terrorism, which must not be allowed to derail the talks. We call on all parties to refrain from any activity that could undermine the search for a just and lasting settlement.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of raids by Egyptian police on weapons depots in Sinai on 28 and 29 August 2010; and if he will make a statement. [R] [14261]

Alistair Burt: The UK remains in close touch with the Egyptian authorities on a range of security issues, and are aware of recent press reports about the discovery of an estimated 300 anti-aircraft missiles and over 100 kg of explosives in Sinai allegedly destined for Gaza.

Together with the international community, the UK is working hard to help prevent the smuggling of weapons into Gaza as well as easing access restrictions for humanitarian and reconstruction relief.

Syria

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to improve UK relations with Syria. [14254]

Alistair Burt: We have full diplomatic relations with Syria and a wide ranging relationship covering areas of mutual interest—such as the Middle East Peace Process—as well as other issues of concern to the UK including Human Rights and Counter Proliferation.

In July I visited Damascus and had a number of useful meetings with Ministers of State, Syrian business leaders and the British Council in Damascus, where we discussed areas of mutual cooperation.

We will continue to work to build our relationship and to take forward discussions on these issues.

WALES

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in July 2010. [14932]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was paid by her Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12359]

Mr David Jones: My Department rents part of a building in Cardiff. The following costs for the past five years include service and utility charges as well as rent as they could be disaggregated only at a disproportionate cost:

	£
2005-06	146,273
2006-07	163,078
2007-08	178,602
2008-09	184,438
2009-10	177,693

In 2005-06 the Wales Office also rented a property in London to provide office space for a team working on the Government of Wales Act at a cost of £36,326.

No other properties have been rented by my Department.

Prisons

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on prison capacity in Wales. [13135]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend met my hon. Friend the Prisons Minister in July, to discuss prison capacity in Wales.

Referendums

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales on the wording of the question in a referendum on law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales; [14757]

(2) if she will hold a consultation on the wording of any referendum question proposed under the provisions of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [14758]

Mrs Gillan: I have discussed the referendum wording on a number of occasions with the First Minister and Presiding Officer. Both have welcomed the Electoral Commission's recent report and both have confirmed that they support my decision to accept the Commission's revised preamble and question.

I wrote to the Electoral Commission on 23 June 2010 seeking its views, and on the same day informed the House that I had done so. I allowed the Commission the 10 weeks it had requested for its consultation and assessment, which included carrying out public opinion research, gathering views from interested parties including potential campaign organisations and political parties as well as key accessibility groups and the Welsh Language Board. This also included seeking advice from experts on plain language and accessibility in English and Welsh. Anyone could have made their views known to the Commission during that period. There is no statutory requirement to conduct further consultations on the question.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Sexuality

Meg Hillier: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Government Equalities Office have had with international counterparts to discuss international standards for the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. [11634]

Lynne Featherstone: In July, we published Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGB & T) Equality, which included a commitment to use our international influence to encourage other countries to advance LGB and T equality.

We are committed to using meetings with our international counterparts and any other levers available to us to tear down the barriers that still exist for LGB and T people throughout Europe and around the world.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Pay

12. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for armed forces pay; and if he will make a statement. [14530]

Mr Robathan: We are determined that members of the armed forces should receive a remuneration package commensurate with the vital role they play, often in the most difficult circumstances, in the service of this country. SDSR decisions later this year will shape the future employment of service personnel and will also influence our plans for armed forces pay.

Korean Peninsula

17. **Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Korean Peninsula; and if he will make a statement. [14535]

Nick Harvey: We continue to work across Whitehall, and with our international partners, to monitor developments on the Korean peninsula. The situation has remained tense since the sinking of the Republic of Korea Naval vessel, the Cheonan, in March of this year as a result of a North Korean attack. We also remain concerned about North Korea's nuclear programme and its ongoing role in the proliferation of military material. Long-term stability on the Korean peninsula will only be achieved through the complete and verifiable denuclearisation of North Korea. We believe the Six Party Talks offer the best prospect for achieving this. It is essential that North Korea abandon its current course and create the conditions for the resumption of talks.

Army Personnel Figures

18. **Michael Dugher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were serving in the Army on the latest date for which figures are available. [14536]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 July 2010, the full-time trained strength of the Army stood at 102,500. I refer the hon. Member to the latest Quarterly Manning report which is available on the Ministry of Defence website.

US and UK Military Co-operation

19. **Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between the US and the UK on military matters. [14537]

Dr Fox: The US remains our most important strategic and military ally. Both countries continue to gain significant benefit from co-operation across the spectrum of military capability.

Royal Gurkha Rifles

20. **Damian Collins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the role of the Royal Gurkha Rifles in the Army. [14538]

Nick Harvey: The Strategic Defence and Security Review is looking at the size and shape of the armed forces and the functions they perform. No decisions have yet been taken.

Improvised Explosive Devices: Helmand

23. **Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to counter the threat from improvised explosive devices in Helmand province. [14541]

Nick Harvey: We take the protection of our armed forces extremely seriously and strive continuously to reduce the risk they face and improve their protection. The combined effect of our continuous improvements to use the right training and tactics together with enhancements that have already been made to our counter-improvised explosive device capability are making a difference.

On 30 June 2010, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced an additional £67 million for counter-IED capabilities to protect our troops in Afghanistan. This includes over £40 million for more protected vehicles for use by our counter-IED teams as well as some £5 million for more remote control vehicles. The remaining funds will be used to enhance other critical capabilities in the counter-IED campaign, including enhancements to our military working dog capability.

Military Forces: EU Integration

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to integrate UK military forces with those of other EU member states. [14539]

Dr Fox: No. The Strategic Defence and Security Review is considering options for closer bilateral co-operation with key nations, including partners in Europe. NATO will remain the cornerstone of our defence.

Defence Industry: Lancashire

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on employment in the defence industry in Lancashire of reductions in levels of defence spending. [14540]

Peter Luff: We recognise the major contribution made to UK defence and the wider economy by industry throughout the North West of England, and particularly in Lancashire. The Strategic Defence and Security Review is still under way and therefore it would be premature to speculate about the impact of future levels of defence expenditure.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 615, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what information his Department holds on the number of civilian deaths which may have been caused by the use of air-to-ground weapons by Reaper air-to-ground weapons since May 2008. [13484]

Dr Fox: The UK Government do not collate or publish figures for civilian casualties in Afghanistan because of the immense difficulty and risks of collecting robust data.

Every effort is made to avoid civilian casualties and any that are the result of action by UK armed forces are always a matter of profound regret. Should we become aware of incidents in which we may have caused civilian casualties, we undertake a full investigation in accordance with international security assistance force and UK processes.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with how many British-based private security companies his Department has a contract for the provision of services in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [14743]

Dr Fox: The Department does not contract with British-based private military security companies in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces Day

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to mark Armed Forces day 2011; and if he will make a statement. [14704]

Mr Robathan: The national event for Armed Forces day 2011 will be held on 25 June 2011 in Edinburgh. Plans are currently being formulated that will once again give the whole country the opportunity to "honour Britain's armed forces' past, present and future."

Armed Forces: Drugs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of each regiment of the Army were dismissed for using illegal substances in each of the last five years. [14767]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Empty Housing

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of service family accommodation units had been continuously empty for *(a)* six, *(b)* six to 12, *(c)* 12 to 24, *(d)* 24 to 36, *(e)* 36 to 48, *(f)* 48 to 60 and *(g)* more than 60 months on 30 June 2010. [14329]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 9 September 2010]*: Against an overall total of 49,505 service family accommodation (SFA) properties in the UK, the following table shows the length of time they have been unoccupied as at 7 September 2010.

Time scale	*Number of SFA properties*	*Proportion of total SFA (Percentage)*
Less than 6 months	4,184	8.5
6 to 12 months	1,010	2.0
12 to 24 months	831	1.7
24 to 36 months	403	0.8
36 to 48 months	211	0.4
48 to 60 months	164	0.3
Over 60 months	263	0.5

There are a number of reasons why properties may be held void for extended periods of time. This includes the location where they are held, pending future basing decisions or awaiting disposal action.

Like-for-like information for overseas SFA is not available.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of his Department's housing stock is *(a)* void and *(b)* uninhabited. [14736]

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of service accommodation units were empty on 30 June 2010. [14338]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) records those service family accommodation (SFA) properties or single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces which are void rather than uninhabited or empty.

Accommodation is usually only void for short periods to allow for routine moves of service personnel, improvement or modernisation work, demolition or disposal. The Department will always need to maintain a management margin of void accommodation for these purposes.

As at 1 July 2010, the closest date for which figures are available, the following numbers of UK and overseas SFA properties were void:

Location of SFA	*Number of void properties*	*As a percentage of total stock*
UK	7,338	14.8
Overseas	2,968	19.2

The MOD is on target to reduce the percentage of void properties in the UK to 10% by 2012.

As at 6 July 2010, the closest date for which figures are available, 52,375 SLA bed-spaces worldwide were void. This represents 35.6% of the total stock. While this appears high, it will include accommodation for those temporarily away on training or operations.

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many minority ethnic service personnel were recruited to each service *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Gloucester in each of the last five years. [13400]

Mr Robathan: The number of ethnic minority personnel recruited nationally and through the armed forces careers office in Gloucester over the last five years is given in the following table.

	Royal Navy		*Army*		*RAF*	
Financial year	*UK*	*Gloucester*	*UK*	*Gloucester*	*UK*	*Gloucester*
2005-06	94	0	911	6	29	1
2006-07	93	0	1,079	6	37	0
2007-08	87	0	1,402	8	64	0
2008-09	89	1	1,626	6	124	2
2009-10	92	1	1,054	10	98	0

Armed Forces: Housing

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department takes to consult service personnel and their families on their preferred priorities for accommodation upgrades. [14343]

Mr Robathan: The UK Service Family Accommodation (SFA) upgrade programme endeavours to provide the best value for money options to provide the maximum benefit to the greatest number of families, and decisions will take into account future strategic requirements, together with potential disposal plans.

Accommodation upgrades are prioritised on a greatest need first basis, and are set in agreement with the three single services.

A follow-up survey identical in content to the one undertaken by the National Audit Office (NAO) during 2008 was carried out on SFA occupants in the UK during December 2009. Subject to future funding, the results of this survey will feed into future SFA improvement strategies.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on implementing recommendation *(a)* 2, on strategic review, *(b)* 3, on management of void properties, *(c)* 4, on contractor management, *(d)* 5, on preparation of properties for new occupants, *(e)* 6, on improving the processes of allocations and move-in and move-out and *(f)* (i) 7 and (ii) 8, on involving families of the National Audit Office report of Session 2008-09 on Service Families Accommodation, HC 13; and what account his Department has taken of modern living requirements in implementing each recommendation. [14454]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently undertaking a Strategic Defence and Security Review. The rationalisation and development of future estates and the management of defence infrastructure is included within it. The outcome will be announced in due course.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average time taken was to make repairs to forces accommodation from the point of a call out in each of the last 12 months. [14667]

Mr Robathan: The repair and maintenance of service accommodation worldwide is carried out under many different arrangements, managed by different areas of the Department. Given this fact, the requested information for each of the last 12 months is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was charged to occupants of Modern Housing Solutions accommodation for repair of damage caused by them in each of the last 12 months. [14670]

Mr Robathan: Charges are raised to cover the cost of remedial work to service family accommodation where occupants vacate a property leaving it below the required move-out standard. Charges are not raised for normal wear and tear, and any charges for the replacement of lifed items such as carpets will take into account the remaining life of the item.

It is not possible to identify charges raised against occupants of properties maintained by modern housing solutions from other UK properties maintained by other contractors. The total charges raised for UK properties in each of the last 12 months are as follows:

	Amount charged (£)
September 2009	111,748
October 2009	102,023
November 2009	85,139
December 2009	54,006
January 2010	76,102
February 2010	104,057
March 2010	62,199
April 2010	97,122
May 2010	72,190
June 2010	87,546
July 2010	73,958
August 2010	74,525

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions received regarding animal infestations in service accommodation in each of the last five years. [14733]

Mr Robathan: The requested information is not recorded separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many calls were made to his Department's special forces housing helpline in 2009. [14734]

Mr Robathan: There are several dedicated housing help lines. Repairs to service family accommodation (SFA) properties in the UK are carried out under the Housing Prime Contract (HPC) in England and Wales, the Regional Prime Contract (RPC) in Scotland and separate arrangements exist in Northern Ireland (NI). In all cases occupants can report faults and request repairs via a freephone helpdesk.

The HPC is being delivered by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS), which is responsible for maintaining some 45,000 properties. The MHS helpdesk received some 393,656 calls in 2009, of which some 226,889 resulted in work orders being raised. Although the total number of calls regarding SFA in Scotland and NI is not available, the RPC raised 15,424 work orders for Scottish SFA in 2009 and 11,148 were raised for NI SFA.

Given the number of different maintenance regimes, the requested information for overseas SFA is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation units his Department has in (i) the UK and (ii) overseas. [14735]

Mr Robathan: The current number of service family accommodation (SFA) properties and single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces in the UK and overseas are:

		Number
	SFA properties	SLA bed-spaces
UK	49,505	128,701
Overseas	15,489	18,112

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many houses owned by his Department were rated as grade *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four in each of the last five years. [14738]

Mr Robathan: The majority of the 65,000 service family accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide are leased rather than owned by the Ministry of Defence. SFA is graded for charge and by standard for condition (SfC), a detailed measure of the physical condition of a property with Standard 1 being the highest and Standard 4 the lowest. While families are no longer allocated SfC SFA, a small number have chosen to remain in these properties for personal reasons.

For the years 2005 to 2008, the following number of properties in the UK were at each SfC:

	S1fC	S2fC	S3fC	S4fC
2005	26,426	20,774	2,792	195
2006	28,796	18,950	2,309	159
2007	29,691	17,910	2,165	145
2008	28,354	17,414	2,098	109

In 2008, a new condition survey of SFA properties in England and Wales was undertaken, with similar surveys now also under way in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Those UK properties so far surveyed as at December 2009 were at the following SfC:

	Number
S1fC	12,718
S2fC	19,689
S3fC	1,034
S4fC	204

Like-for-like figures are not available for overseas SFA. However, as at October 2009 overseas properties were at the following SfC:

	Number
S1fC	4,390
S2fC	3,930
S3fC	4,152
S4fC	2,848
Not yet assessed	99

Armed Forces: Housing

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department has been proceeded against for non-payment of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* utility bills owed on properties in the defence housing estate in each of the last five years. [13996]

Dr Fox: Under the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992, all domestic accommodation for UK service personnel is exempt from council tax but the Ministry of Defence (MOD) pays contributions in lieu of council tax (CILOCT) to billing authorities. Almost all MOD housing is therefore subject to CILOCT payments.

Prior to 1 April 2008, records of payments are not centrally held and could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

In the period from 1 April 2008 to date, the MOD has received a total of four summonses from local magistrates courts for non-payment of CILOCT. In three instances these resulted from errors by the local authority and were withdrawn. The other instance resulted from a property being inadvertently excluded from a return by the MOD. Payment was therefore made and the summons rescinded.

There have been no occasions of the Department being proceeded against for the non-payment of utility bills in UK in the last five years. Occupants of service families accommodation are directly responsible for the payment of utility bills.

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many empty properties on the defence housing estate his Department has *(a)* made ready for occupation and *(b)* moved service families into in each of the last five years. [13997]

Mr Robathan: All properties offered to occupants are ready to occupy, although in some cases additional work may require completion after move-in, where it was not possible to do this beforehand.

The number of moved service families in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	Number of move-ins[1]
2006	19,639
2007	18,186
2008	19,444
2009	18,518
2010 (to 6 September)	12,512

[1] Figures are for Great Britain only up to 31 March 2008 and for UK thereafter.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on *(a)* offering employment in the military for those members of the armed forces who are injured while on active service and *(b)* guaranteeing continued employment for such people for the period for which they would have served; and if he will make a statement. [14826]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1053-54W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Loughborough (Nicky Morgan).

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times Army technical officers have been called out to deal with *(a)* suspected and *(b)* actual explosive devices in Northern Ireland in (i) 2010, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2008, (iv) 2007 and (v) 2006. [13797]

Nick Harvey: The following table details the number of Explosive Ordinance Disposal tasks attended in Northern Ireland and the number of these that involved an explosive device. A complete and reliable set of data for 2006 is not held.

The data for 2010 are for tasks up to 31 August 2010.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Total Tasks attended	[2]—	246	334	505	329
Incidents involving an explosive device	[2]—	26	38	44	63

[1] To date

[2] Not known

Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it cost to run the Army Technical Operation (Bomb Disposal) in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available. [13798]

Nick Harvey: Ministry of Defence accounting systems do not hold financial data in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pension payments have been processed by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in each year since 2007. [14001]

Mr Robathan: The Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) is the occupational pension scheme for the three services including the reserves. The War Pension Scheme (WPS) is a benefit programme that provides no fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for injuries and death as a result of service before 6 April 2005, with the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) providing this compensation since that date.

As at 31 March 2010 there were:

323,714 AFPS pensions and 75,126 dependants (spouses, partners and children) pensions in payment, most of which are paid monthly.

148,377 war pensioners and 30,690 dependants (spouses and civil partners) receiving monthly or weekly benefit payments for injury, illness or death under the WPS.

169 injured former service personnel and 232 dependants (spouses, partners and children) receiving ongoing guaranteed income payments (GIPs) under the AFCS. Additionally, there are a number of injured personnel still in service who will be entitled to a GIP on leaving the services.

Information on the number of AFPS pension, war pension payments and AFCSC GIPs processed is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated total annual pension cost is expected to be in 2020 of payments to *(a)* uniformed armed forces, *(b)* uniformed regular armed forces and *(c)* uniformed reserve armed forces personnel who will then be in receipt of a pension. [14358]

Mr Robathan: The forecast pension spend for the armed forces pension scheme is not available beyond 2014-15 and is not broken down between the regular and reserve armed forces. The forecast spend in 2014-15 is £4.7 billion.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total annual pension cost was in the last full year for which figures are available of payments to all *(a)* uniformed reserve armed forces, *(b)* uniformed regular armed forces and *(c)* uniformed armed forces personnel who are in receipt of a pension. [14359]

Mr Robathan: The total annual pension cost of pensions paid to former service personnel or their dependants under the armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) is not broken down between the regular and reserve armed forces. In 2009-10 £3.47 billion was paid under the AFPS.

Army: Expenditure

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual percentage change in spending on the Army was between *(a)* 1980 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and 2010. [14124]

Nick Harvey: This information is not held in the format requested.

The budgetary structure of the Ministry of Defence does not show separately the costs of the three individual Armed Services (Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force). This is because large parts of the Armed Services operate as fully integrated joint organisations in which elements from the Navy, Army and Air Force work closely together and share land, buildings and facilities, and sometimes equipment. The MOD's Permanent Joint Headquarters, which commands most of our military operations, is one example. Another is the defence equipment and support organisation which provides front line commands with equipment and logistic support.

Army: Manpower

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual percentage change in the size of the Army was between *(a)* 1980 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and 2010. [14125]

Nick Harvey: The full-time trained strength of the Army declined by an average annual rate of 2.18% between 1980 and 1997 and increased by an annual average rate of 0.06% between 1997 and 2010.

The Territorial Army declined by an average annual rate of 0.70% between 1980 and 1997 and declined by an annual average rate of 3.98% between 1997 and 2010.

Due to the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration System on 1 April 2007, percentage changes between 1997 and 2010 are provisional and subject to review.

Army: Recruitment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he has put in place to recruit more high explosives and ordnance experts to the Army. [14364]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has more than doubled the number of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams operating in Afghanistan in the past 12 months.

EOD operators are not recruited directly from civilian life. Those recruited must already have attained at least the rank of Sergeant (or equivalent) and be able to demonstrate tactical technical experience in a related field. In April this year the MOD began recruiting EOD operators from the wider Army (Royal Engineers, bomb disposal officers), Royal Navy (EOD divers) and Royal Air Force (EOD armourers) rather than from solely the Army's Royal Logistic Corps. In time, this is expected to give a further significant boost to the number of trained experts available.

Chelsea Barracks: Sales

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the document entitled "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: 2007 pre-budget report and comprehensive spending review", Cm 7227, whether the full proceeds of the sale of the Chelsea barracks site were allocated for expenditure on armed forces accommodation. [14340]

Mr Robathan: There is no specific link between disposal receipts and individual elements of defence expenditure. Exceptionally, however, the disposal of Chelsea barracks, which was sold for £959 million, was included in the plans of the Department and underpinned investment in-service accommodation of £250 million in 2007-08.

In addition it was agreed as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review that a further £550 million should be invested in accommodation over the following three years with plans for the balance of the proceeds of £159 million, to be agreed with HM Treasury as part of the current 2010 Spending Review due to be concluded later in the autumn.

The disposal of Chelsea has, therefore, secured the major investment in-service accommodation through Project SLAM (Single Living Accommodation Modernisation), the service housing upgrade programme and many other significant accommodation projects in the UK and overseas to improve the living conditions for our service personnel.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's staff who have worked in Iraq or Afghanistan are covered by the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [13803]

Mr Robathan: All Ministry of Defence (MOD) civil servants are covered by the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS).

Since 2003, the MOD has deployed some 1,700 civil servants to operational theatres, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

The MOD has also employed some locally engaged civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, some of whom may be eligible for some coverage under the CSCS.

Cyprus: Armed Forces

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy personnel there are in Cyprus. [14242]

Nick Harvey: The strength of UK regular service personnel, as at 1 July 2010, stationed in Cyprus are:

Service	*Number*
Army	1,640
RAF	900
RN	30
British forces Cyprus total	2,570

These figures may vary as personnel change location or are deployed on operations.

In addition, there are 300 personnel deployed to the UNFICYP mission in Cyprus.

A copy of the Defence Analytical Services and Advice publication TSP 10 (UK Regular Forces Stationed Location) has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people employed by his Department in Cyprus are *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK citizens. [14243]

Nick Harvey: The information is not held in the format requested.

The numbers of civilian staff employed by British Forces Cyprus on 3 September 2010 was as follows:

Civilian staff type	*Number*
UK based civilians	330
UK dependants	310
Locally engaged civilians	1,210

There are also a number of civilians employed by Defence contractors in Cyprus, the numbers and nationalities of whom are not held centrally.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many children *(a)* under 10 years old and *(b)* between 10 and 18 years old of UK military personnel are being educated in Cyprus. [14244]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently educating 953 children under 10 years old and 489 children between the ages of 10 and 18 in its schools in Cyprus. It is not possible to split these numbers between children of military personnel and those of UK based civilians. Not all parents choose to educate their children within the MOD school system.

The Cyprus schools educate the children of MOD contractors and some local community children on a fee-paying basis. In addition to the numbers above there are currently 17 children under 10 years old and 43 children aged between 10 and 18 being educated on this basis.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated value is of *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings owned by his Department in Cyprus. [14308]

Mr Robathan: As at November 2009, the net book value of the land and buildings owned by the Ministry of Defence in Cyprus was as follows:

	£ million
Land	185
Buildings	445

The land in Cyprus is held under some freehold and various leasehold arrangements with the Republic of Cyprus.

Defence: Exports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to increase levels of UK defence exports. [14521]

Mr Gerald Howarth: We have publicly stated that we intend to re-energise Government support to defence exports. Defence exports make an important contribution to sustaining our defence industry, including tens of thousands of highly skilled jobs. They also help to build relationships with key strategic partners, and provide economies of scale for our own procurement.

We will achieve this in part through an active and innovative programme for defence diplomacy. We also recognize the need to commission equipment which is exportable, and we are embedding this in our future acquisition planning. We are working with industry to bring a clearer understanding of the export marketplace.

Defence: International Co-operation

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on Anglo-French defence co-operation. [13183]

Dr Fox: I have regular discussions with my French counterpart, the most recent on 3 September 2010 in Paris when we discussed a range of issues, including bilateral defence co-operation, NATO transformation and Afghanistan.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13045]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence reimbursed service and civilian staff £145.6 million for business expense claims incurred on official duty in 2009-10. This includes a wide range of expenses and allowances including: subsistence, motor mileage and incidental expenses.

Comparable information is not held centrally before 2009-10 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All figures exclude the cost of business expenses paid direct by the Department and not reimbursed to staff.

The ability of staff to claim for legitimate business expenses is essential to enable the proper conduct of MOD business. We have sites in many parts of the country, and internationally, and staff need to travel between them, and work while they do so.

All MOD staff incurring business expenses are required to demonstrate the highest standards of financial propriety and a level of restraint commensurate with being Crown servants. We are further constraining how much is spent on expenses in the present economic conditions. A key principle is that travel should be avoided where the business need can be met by alternatives to travel, such as e-mail and video or audio conferencing.

Information regarding the 10 largest service and civilian staff reimbursements for business expenditure claims in each year since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many referrals from the Department of Work and Pensions the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency has received in each year since 2007. [14000]

Mr Robathan: There are no data collected on the source of any referrals to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA). However, the SPVA Veterans Welfare Service works very closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (on shared IT platforms) and has agreements in place which allow the SPVA to provide assistance on claims for statutory DWP benefits. The SPVA does record action taken to support customers including onward referrals.

Germany

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* one-bedroom, *(b)* two-bedroom, *(c)* three-bedroom and *(d)* four-bedroom properties are owned by his Department in Germany. [14629]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not own any one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom or four-bedroom properties in Germany.

The housing in Germany consists of German Federal stock, which are those built and maintained by the Ministry of Defence on land provided by the German Federal authorities, and hirings which are leased from landlords.

Germany: Military Bases

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the book value is of sites and buildings owned by his Department in Germany. [14781]

Mr Robathan: As at November 2009, the net book value of the sites (land) and buildings owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in Germany was as follows:

	£ million
Sites (land)	0
Buildings	380

The land in Germany and the majority of the buildings are not owned by the MOD but there have been made available to the Department under a host nation agreement with the federal authorities.

Gibraltar: Military Bases

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the book value is of the *(a)* sites and *(b)* buildings owned by his Department in Gibraltar. [14676]

Mr Robathan: As at November 2009, the net book value of the sites (land) and buildings owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in Gibraltar was as follows:

	£ million
Sites (land)	18
Buildings	125

The majority of the land used by the MOD is owned by the Crown.

Gibraltar: Weapons

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has had discussions with the government of Gibraltar on methods of disposing of old ordnance other than exploding it off the coast of Gibraltar; and if he will make a statement. [14414]

Nick Harvey: Over the last two weeks, Ministry of Defence officials have had two meetings with the Gibraltar Department of the Environment to explore options for the demolition of munitions with minimal possible risk to the environment.

Further demolitions of munitions under water in Gibraltar have been suspended until a better solution has been found.

Glasgow

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's staff at Kentigern House in Glasgow work on duties relating to *(a)* military staff based in Scotland and *(b)* (i) military and (ii) civilian staff based (A) in England, Wales or Northern Ireland and (B) overseas. [14684]

Mr Robathan: There are approximately 1,400 people working at Kentigern House in Glasgow, roughly 60% of whom work for the Army Personnel Centre. The remainder are attached to various other Ministry of Defence organisations, principally the Service Pensions and Veterans Agency.

All MOD organisations within the building work either directly or indirectly towards the common outputs of pay, manning and career management of all the members of the armed forces, regardless of where they are serving.

Gurkhas

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Brigade of Gurkhas; and if he will make a statement. [14810]

Nick Harvey: The Strategic Defence and Security Review is looking at the size and shape of the armed forces and the functions they perform. No decisions have yet been reached.

Gurkhas: Anniversaries

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals he has to mark the 200th anniversary of Gurkha soldiers serving in the British Army. [14417]

Mr Robathan: The 200th anniversary of Gurkha service to the British Crown will fall in 2015. Plans to mark this notable anniversary in an appropriate way are still at an early stage.

Russia: Military Aircraft

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times Royal Air Force aircraft have been deployed from each base to intercept Russian aircraft in each of the last five years. [14599]

Nick Harvey: The number of days on which Royal Air Force Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft have been launched in response to Russian military aviation in the each of the last five years is contained in the following table.

	Number of days QRA launched in response to Russian military aviation
2006	1
2007	19
2008	10
2009	11
2010[1]	6

[1] To date.

QRA aircraft are held at ground readiness at RAF Coningsby and RAF Leuchars. I am withholding information about from which base QRA aircraft were launched for each incident as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Trident

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1040-41, on public spending, in which country the company contracted to provide the Successor Deterrent Extension and Concept Long Lead Items to be reviewed under the Trident value for money review has its headquarters. [13658]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* No company, headquarters or country has been selected as no contracts have been let for Long Lead Items for the Trident Successor programme.

Warships: Deployment

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ships of the Royal Navy are deployed on operations at sea; and where each is deployed. [14952]

Dr Fox: As at 9 September 2010 the following Royal Navy ships are deployed on operations at sea:

Middle East:

HMS Somerset
HMS Chiddingfold
HMS Grimsby
HMS Pembroke
HMS Middleton
HMS Enterprise
RFA Cardigan Bay
RFA Lyme Bay
RFA Bayleaf
RFA Diligence

Horn of Africa:

HMS Northumberland
HMS Montrose

Mediterranean:

HMS Sabre
HMS Scimitar
RFA Fort Victoria

Baltic:

HMS Penzance

North Atlantic:

HMS Manchester
RFA Wave Ruler

South Atlantic:

HMS Gloucester
HMS Portland
HMS Clyde
RFA Black Rover
HMS Ocean

Home Waters:

HMS Tyne
HMS Severn
HMS Mersey
HMS Gleaner
HMS Echo

In addition two frigates, two mine counter-measure vessels, two patrol vessels and one RFA ship are at notice for contingent operations in home waters.

Wind Power

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the terms of the memorandum of understanding signed on 11 June 2008 between his Department, the wind energy industry and the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. [14596]

Mr Robathan: The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding can be found on the Department for Energy and Climate Change website using the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/energy%20mix/renewable%20energy/planning/on_off_wind/aero_military/file46583.pdf

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister how many unpaid interns have been employed in No. 10 Downing Street since April 2010. [13807]

The Prime Minister: There have been no unpaid interns employed in No. 10 Downing street since April 2010.

India

Angus Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers and officials accompanied him on his visit to India in July 2010. [13364]

The Prime Minister: As set out in the Ministerial Code, Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by their Ministers. Information for the period 13 May to 31 July 2010 will be published shortly.

Mr Weir: To ask the Prime Minister whether any representatives of the nuclear industry accompanied him on his visit to India in July. [13506]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my office on Tuesday 27 July 2010. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Industrial Health and Safety: Departmental Responsibilities

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Prime Minister which Minister has lead responsibility for the review of health and safety law; and what role he is playing in the review. [14962]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the article on the No. 10 website at

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/06/pm-announces-review-of-health-and-safety-laws-51726

Petitions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many e-petitions there were on the Downing Street website with *(a)* fewer than and *(b)* more than 500 signatures on 6 April 2010; [13815]

(2) for what reasons responses will not be issued to e-petitions to No. 10 Downing Street which had fewer than 500 signatures on 6 April 2010; and if he will contact signatories of such petitions to inform them no response will be made; [13816]

(3) for what reasons a response will be made to e-petitions to No. 10 Downing Street which had more than 500 signatures submitted before 6 April 2010. [13817]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement on the Number 10 website which can be found at:

http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/

School Milk

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Prime Minister (1) *(a)* on what date and *(b)* by what means he was first informed of Department of Health proposals to end the nursery milk scheme; [13595]

(2) what discussions he had had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Health and *(b)* Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health about proposals to end the nursery milk scheme. [13596]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my official spokesman on 9 August 2010. A copy of the transcript is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-briefings/2010/08/morning-press-briefmg-from-9-august-2010-54404

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Departmental Public Relations

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff are employed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) to work on public relations; what the total cost to the public purse of employing staff for public relations work has been since it began operation; and which *(a)* agencies and *(b)* Government departments have provided staff to undertake such work for IPSA in that period. [14624]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA currently employs two members of staff in its communications team. One person has responsibility for external communications, including the media, and one person has responsibility for internal communications and website management. A director of communications will soon be joining IPSA to provide strategic oversight and direction to its communications activities.

Since IPSA began operations on 7 May 2010, the total spend on employing staff for all aspects of communications activities has been £37,840. This includes the associated expenditure of national insurance and employer pension contributions and VAT on contracted staff supplied by GovGap.

No Government Departments have provided staff to IPSA's communication team in this period. IPSA received communications advice and support from Apex Communications during the initial phase of operation as it was recruiting and establishing its in-house communication team, but does not any more.

ICT

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the *(a)* value and *(b)* length of contract is for the computer system used by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and with which organisation the contract is made. [14307]

Mr Charles Walker: The Contract is with Calyx (UK) Ltd. The length of the contract is five years from February 2010.

The scope of the contract covers infrastructure and enterprise software support as follows:

Infrastructure support covers:

Server hardware, desktops and laptops, network hardware, office infrastructure, firewalls, anti-virus, web proxy and hosting services, WAN link, security solutions, email, telephony.

Enterprise software support covers:

Software support for financial accounting, online expense system, payroll, HR, customer management system.

The annual value of the contract including both infrastructure and enterprise support is £194,000 in the first year and £252,000 per year in subsequent years.

Manpower

Glenda Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff work for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and if the Authority will publish its standard employment contract for staff. [10204]

Mr Charles Walker: As of 19 July 2010, IPSA has 83 staff of whom:

(a) 82 are full-time; and

(b) one part-time.

IPSA will send the standard employment contract template to the hon. Member.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many full-time staff each department of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority employs; and what the staff turnover has been in each week since 1 May 2010. [11824]

Mr Charles Walker: As of 27 July 2010, there are 78 full-time members of staff working at IPSA, broken down as follows.

	Permanent	*Temporary*
Chief Executive's Unit	1	1
Operations	16	35
Finance and Corporate Services	4	11
Policy, Communications and Secretariat	6	4

There has been no turnover in our permanent staff since 1 May 2010. Due to the nature of temporary employment, there are no figures available for turnover in temporary staff.

Members: Allowances

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will list each of the changes made to the rules and procedures implemented by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority since its inception. [14306]

Mr Charles Walker: A small number of changes to the MPs' Expenses Scheme were introduced in July 2010, following the consultation required by the Parliamentary Standards Act. The changes are detailed in "The MPs' Expenses Scheme: Second Edition", which has been made available to all MPs and is available on:

www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk

In addition, since 7 May 2010, IPSA has introduced a number of changes to procedures to help MPs, including:

the introduction of a £4,000 advance for MPs and advance payments on production of invoices for a number of high cost items;

a facility for proxies to process expenses for MPs who are not their employer;

the extension of the 90 day deadline for claims until 1 October 2010;

the introduction of the "grace period" until early September, under which claims submitted over the summer which are outside the rules will not be published.

These and other changes have been documented in the IPSA MPs' Bulletin, which is sent to all MPs each week and available on:

www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many refusals of claims had been communicated to hon. Members by means of *(a)* the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority website and *(b)* by email for the period to 7 September 2010. [15032]

Mr Charles Walker: Where a claim is refused in full or in part, MPs are provided with summary details of the refusal via the online system under heading 'Refusals'. By close of business on 9 September, 25,872 claim lines had been approved and 1,574 claim lines had been refused.

Currently refusals are not communicated via e-mail.

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what proportion of claim refusal decisions communicated to hon. Members by 7 September 2010 were accompanied by accurate written accounts of the reasons for which claims had been refused. [15033]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA does not currently communicate refusal decisions by e-mail. MPs are provided with summary details of the refusal via the online system under heading 'Refusals'. IPSA is developing a process to provide MPs with an automated e-mail alert informing them of the status of claims and to enable Members to view detailed refusal reasons.

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority staff are authorised to make claim refusal decisions on claims; and what procedures are followed in circumstances in which such staff make an error in communicating such a refusal decision to an hon. Member. [15034]

Mr Charles Walker: Currently seven senior members of IPSA staff are able to make final decisions on MPs expense claims. Where a claim is refused, MPs are able to request a review within 14 days on the grounds that the rules have been applied inconsistently or that IPSA has made an administrative error. If the review finds that the claim should have been paid, the claim is revisited and processed. Individual members of staff are informed of the review and further training is provided where required.

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many documents submitted to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority by hon. Members in support of their claims had been lost in the period to 30 August 2010. [15035]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA does not record numbers of documents which are thought to have been lost.

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what procedures are followed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to record the receipt of supporting documents submitted in relation to claims made by hon. Members; and whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority plans to review those procedures. [15036]

Mr Charles Walker: Post deposited in the drop box in Portcullis House is collected by hand and, together with the mail posted directly to IPSA, is sorted every morning. MPs' expense claims and accompanying receipts are placed in individual, transparent pockets with all staples and paperclips removed. Each claim is then logged using documentation tracking software and scanned directly to the online expenses system for validation. The documents are then filed immediately to Members' records. Currently all post received is sorted, logged, scanned and filed within one day. All IPSA processes during this initial phase of operations are kept under review.

Mr Meacher: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many and what proportion of telephone calls to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority from hon. Members were not answered within 15 minutes in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [15241]

Mr Charles Walker: It is not possible to provide the requested statistics at this time. IPSA intends to provide MPs with information on its performance against its call handling and other service targets shortly.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Short Money

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Leader of the House what formula is used for calculating Short money; when that formula was set; and what mechanism is used to monitor the usage of allocated funds. [14126][1]

Sir George Young: For 2010-11, the formula used to calculate each opposition party's Short money funding is: £14,351 multiplied by the number of seats won by a party's candidates at the general election; plus £27.99 multiplied by one two hundredth of the number of votes cast at the election. The formula was set by a resolution of the House of 26 May 1999 and has been uprated by increases in the retail prices index since then.

Each Opposition party that receives Short money is required to submit a report from an independent professional auditor, after the end of each financial year, that all the expenses for which the party received financial assistance under the terms of the resolution were incurred exclusively in connection with the party's parliamentary business. The relevant criteria are set out in notes provided to the auditors.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council East: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was allocated in grants to Arts Council East in *(a)* each of the last five financial years and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much he plans to provide in grant funding to Arts Council East in 2011-12. [14484]

Hugh Robertson: The value of grants allocated by Arts Council England to Arts Council East in each of the last five years can be seen in the following table:

Financial year	*Grant allocated (£)*
2005-06	21,939,675
2006-07	16,794,153
2007-08	17,924,637
2008-09	30,745,018
2009-10	33,182,886
2010-11	[1]11,894,520

[1] Please note this figure applies to an incomplete financial year

Arts Council England has not received its grant in aid settlement for 2011-12 yet, so future budget allocations have not been decided.

Arts: Finance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on *(a)* reductions in the expenditure of arts organisations funded by his Department and *(b)* the future levels of arts funding. [14891]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State has met colleagues at the Treasury regularly, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to discuss the Spending Review amongst other matters.

BBC: Finance

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the BBC's use of licence fee revenue; and if he will make a statement. [14912]

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 3MC.]*

Mr Vaizey: I have made it clear in discussions with the BBC that it must demonstrate it is operating efficiently and must set the highest standards in providing value for money to licence fee payers.

We expect discussions on the future level of the licence fee to begin next year.

Camelot

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the grounds for the National Lottery Commission's interim decision to refuse Camelot's application for a licence to provide commercial services; and if he will make a statement. [14590]

Hugh Robertson: We have received four representations on the National Lottery Commission's (NLC) 'minded to' decision to refuse Camelot's application for a licence to provide commercial services.

Whether to allow Camelot to provide commercial services rests properly within the NLC's remit as regulator. The NLC are rightly independent from political intervention or control on these matters NLC's closing date for representations to their 'minded to' decision is Friday 17 September.

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [14085]

John Penrose: This Department has received a wide range of representations from individuals, congregations and faith groups about the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. I appreciate that the scheme is well liked and has played a significant role in supporting repairs to places of worship, and I can fully understand their desire for certainty over the scheme's future to be given at the earliest opportunity. This decision can only be taken, however, as part of the wider discussions about Government spending priorities in the next spending round. We will ensure that we publicise any decisions as soon as possible.

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13935]

John Penrose: The number of payments in the latest period this Department and its Executive agency, The Royal Parks, made to suppliers within and over 30, over 60 and over 90 working days of date of receipt are in the table.

Number

June to August 2010	*Within 30 days*	*Over 30 days*	*Over 60 days*	*Over 90 days*
DCMS	1,247	6	0	0
The Royal Parks	1,292	60	23	5

The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Shipley (Mr Davies). Copies of their replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many unpaid, expenses-only internships there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility in the last 12 months. [13811]

John Penrose: There has been one unpaid internship in DCMS in the last 12 months.

The Department does not hold this information for its public bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciane Berger). Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Digital Broadcasting: Pensioners

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the average cost per pensioner household of upgrading radio equipment in vehicles and properties in preparation for the proposed switchover from analogue to digital radio in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Mid Norfolk constituency. [15085]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have made no such estimate.

However, on 8 July the Government published the Digital Radio Action Plan, which outlines information the Government will need in order to make a well-informed decision on whether to proceed with a radio switchover. This will include a detailed cost benefit analysis of the radio switchover; such as the cost to consumers of household and vehicle conversion.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what percentage of radio listeners in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Mid Norfolk use digital radio; what percentage of people in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Mid Norfolk are not able to receive digital radio signals; and when full digital radio coverage will be available in Mid Norfolk. [15086]

Mr Vaizey: The weekly reach[1] of digital radio in the UK is 38.7% of the population, while digital radio listening equates to 24.6% of all radio listening. The Government do not hold separate listening figures for the nations or regions.

The table sets out national and Nations coverage as calculated in 2008. We hold no such data at a regional level.

Current DAB coverage (percentage of population)

	UK	England	Wales
Mobile DAB	92.2	94.1	73.6
Indoor DAB	82.2	83.7	63.3

We are working with broadcasters and operators to agree a plan for increasing DAB coverage, although no decision has yet been made in respect of Mid Norfolk.

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[1] The number of people aged 15+ who tune to a radio station within at least one quarter-hour period over the course of a week. Respondents are instructed to fill in a quarter-hour only if they have listened to the station for at least five minutes within that quarter-hour. Between 24.00-06.00, listening is recorded in half-hour periods.

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with broadcasters to ensure that public service radio broadcasting continues to provide universal coverage in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Mid Norfolk after the digital switchover. [15087]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have been clear that digital radio switchover can only occur once DAB coverage is comparable to current FM coverage. To this end we are working closely with the BBC, Ofcom, and the multiplex operators to both define current FM coverage levels and make recommendations for future DAB roll-out.

Employment: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet representatives of the Big Lottery to discuss the effects of the withdrawal of funding from the Pathways programme in East Lothian constituency on its work helping people with a history of substance abuse return to further education, training or employment. [13543]

John Penrose: I am afraid I have no plans to meet representatives of the Big Lottery Fund to discuss this issue. The Big Lottery Fund, as with all lottery distributors, rightly makes its funding decisions independently of Government, and decides on its own funding priorities and programmes. In any case, I understand that the Big Lottery Fund is not withdrawing funding from the Pathways to Education, Training and Employment project in East Lothian.

Horse Racing: Betting

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will review the operation of the horserace betting levy to ensure that payments are collected effectively; [13537]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the horseracing industry on Government support for that industry; [13538]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to apply the horserace betting levy to *(a)* bookmakers who move their business offshore and *(b)* betting exchanges. [13539]

John Penrose: I have met with representatives of both racing and bookmaking to discuss the levy and seek suggestions about how it might be improved or, if possible, suitably replaced. I am currently considering what potential changes I may make to the levy structure and will discuss these ideas further with the Levy Board later this month. I have also received representations from the British Horseracing Authority, on behalf of racing, on the future of the Horserace Totalisator Board.

Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will encourage the Arts Council to relax its free entry conditions on grants to allow recipients to charge admission to art galleries and other arts venues; and if he will make a statement. [14483]

Hugh Robertson: Arts Council England (ACE) operate at arm's length from Government and it is for them to set the conditions associated with the grants they make.

Although it is not ACE's standard policy to stipulate free entry conditions to grants, there may be individual grants which carry this condition in relation to local circumstances, or a proposal in the grant application.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what impact assessment he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [14102]

Hugh Robertson: No formal impact assessment was commissioned. The basis for the decision has been the need to find savings in all areas of the Department's spending, and to ensure that every pound of public money we allocate to supporting libraries, archives and front-line museum services gives the maximum benefit.

Ofcom: Performance Measurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an assessment of Ofcom's performance in meeting its objectives for the draft Initial Obligations Code. [14490]

Mr Vaizey: We have made no assessment of the draft initial obligations code yet. My officials are engaged with Ofcom as they develop the code in the light of the responses that they received to their consultation, and when the code is ready, then we will look at it carefully. It should also be noted that before the code can be finally consented to by the Secretary of State and put to Parliament for approval, it will need to be notified to the European Commission and member states under the terms of the technical standards directive, who will have a minimum of three months in which to consider it.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much has been drawn down from the Olympic Contingency Fund in the last 12 months. [13203]

Hugh Robertson: As reported in the latest "London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report", published in July 2010, we started with £2.0 billion, of which, £790 million has been allocated, including £110 million this year, leaving £1.2 billion. Any further allocations of contingency will be reported in subsequent 2012 quarterly reports, the next of which is expected to be published in early November 2010.

Press Complaints Commission

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to improve the independence of the Press Complaints Commission. [14950]

Mr Vaizey: The Press Complaints Commission is independent from Government. It has over recent years sought to improve its independence from the industry by increasing the number of lay members that serve on the Commission. These now form a clear two thirds majority. We have no plans to suggest any changes.

Press: Regulation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Code of the Press Complaints Commission on harassment and privacy; and if he will seek a strengthening of the provisions of the Code in those respects. [14949]

Mr Vaizey: The Editors Code of Practice, overseen by the Press Complaints Commission, sets out how the press regulates itself. It is a self-regulatory mechanism, and while the Government might suggest a particular change if they considered one necessary, they could certainly not impose one. We have no plans for suggesting any changes.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the adequacy of arrangements for regulation of the press. [14951]

Mr Vaizey: The Government strongly support self-regulation of the press. We monitor informally how the arrangements are working, and give careful consideration to the results of regular parliamentary scrutiny from, for example, the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, but have no plans to carry out a formal review.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has given to the Press Complaints Commission on the definition of the public interest. [14953]

Mr Vaizey: The Press Complaints Commission is independent from Government. We have given no guidance on how it should define the public interest.

Regional Arts Councils

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future of regional arts councils; and if he will make a statement. [14485]

Hugh Robertson: The future of regional arts councils is the responsibility of Arts Council England, since they were subsumed in to the national structure in 2003. We understand there are no plans to review the role of regional arts councils at present.

S4C: Finance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet members of the Welsh Language Society to discuss future funding arrangements for S4C. [15390]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport met with members of the Welsh Language Society when they demonstrated outside the Department on 9 September.

Sports

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many athletes identified during a UK Sport Talent Identification and Development campaign are in receipt of an Athlete Personal Award as part of that body's World Class Performance Programme. [14324]

Hugh Robertson: There are currently 16 athletes in receipt of UK Sport Athlete Personal Awards (APAs) as well as World Class Performance Programme support. Sports can also provide APAs to support athletes with their sporting and living costs and a further 12 athletes are in receipt of governing body APAs.

Although not all athletes identified through UK Talent campaigns have access to APAs, a total of 121 athletes have progressed to their sports' World Class Performance Programmes (WCPP). The WCPP provides coaching, training and competition support, medical and scientific services and access to the best facilities that the UK (and often the world) has to offer.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which organisations he expects the Audit Commission's *(a)* audit, *(b)* assessment, *(c)* research and *(d)* data-matching functions to be transferred. [14563]

Robert Neill: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government told the House in response to an urgent question from the hon. Member for Sheffield South East (Mr Betts) on 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 179-86, we are seeking to put the Commission's in-house audit practice into the private sector. Its research activities will end and, with the ending of comprehensive area assessments, many of the Commission's functions have disappeared. As my right hon. Friend made clear, we are now working closely with local government, the health sector, the Commission, the accounting sector and other partners to complete the detailed design of the new arrangements, including an appropriate future for the Commission's important anti-fraud data-matching functions.

Audit Commission: Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residents of Washington and Sunderland West constituency were employed by the Audit Commission on 12 August 2010. [14567]

Robert Neill: I have been informed by the Audit Commission that it employed two residents of Washington and Sunderland West constituency on 12 August 2010.

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the effectiveness of the operation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010; and if he will make a statement. [14791]

Greg Clark: The Government are carefully considering the future of the Community Infrastructure Levy. A public announcement is likely to be made soon.

Council Housing: Finance

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the level of outstanding capital investment requirements for arm's length management organisations. [13837]

Andrew Stunell: ALMOs have estimated that around £2 billion is required to complete their Decent Homes investment programmes. Future funding for the Decent Homes programme will be decided in the context of the spending review.

Departmental Art Works

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* artist, *(b)* estimated value and *(c)* description is of each piece of artwork commissioned for display in his Department since 12 May 2010. [14593]

Robert Neill: Communities and Local Government have not commissioned any works of art for display in the Department since the 12 May 2010.

All artwork on display in Ministers' Offices and in some communal areas of the Department is on loan from the Government art collection.

The Department has recently procured a printed portrait of Her Majesty the Queen for display in the reception of Eland House at a cost of £256.74 including VAT. This was funded from savings made by consolidating seven sets of papers and periodicals for Ministers and special advisers, delivering over £15,000 a year in ongoing revenue savings. Previously the Department did not possess a portrait of Her Majesty, despite it being the legal title holder of the Government's civil estate on behalf of the crown.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13274]

Robert Neill: In July 2010 Communities and Local Government paid 93.14% of invoices within 10 days and in August 2010 91.66% of invoices were paid within 10 days.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13934]

Robert Neill: The following table details invoices paid in August 2010:

Invoices paid in August 2010

					Days
	Within 30	*Over 30*	*Over 60*	*Over 90*	*Total*
Communities and Local Government	1,608	39	7	8	1,662
Government Office Network	578	7	2	1	588
Fire Service College	269	3	0	0	272
Planning Inspectorate	253	0	0	0	253
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	147	0	0	0	147

Details of invoice payments made by the Department's non-departmental public bodies could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [12663]

Robert Neill: As consultancy contracts are often paid at a fixed price and are output based, we cannot quote an average daily rate. The highest rate paid on a cost volume contract (with a total contract value exceeding £20,000) in 2009-10 was £2,143 per day. This was a director rate for ad hoc work, this relates to the contract with PPAQ Consulting for FireControl.

Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on external public relations in 2009-10. [15031]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 603W. A breakdown of the Department's spend on communications and marketing can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/howwework/corporatereports/reportsaccounts/communicationsmarketingreports/

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13275]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold a central record of all external training courses attended by staff in the last 12 months and this information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. A central people development team is responsible for providing or coordinating training where a strategic or priority need is identified across the Department as a whole. Where training needs are identified that fall outside the centrally-managed programme, arrangements are made by individuals or teams in accordance with departmental procedures and guidance and with costs met from within agreed budgets for general administrative expenditure. While departmental systems can identify expenditure on learning and development activities, it is not currently possible to differentiate between expenditure on courses and expenditure on other forms of learning and development activity. Notwithstanding that, my Department has published all its expenditure over £500 online in 2009-10 as part of our ongoing transparency initiative.

Gloucestershire Tri-Service Emergency Centre

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the office space of the Gloucestershire Tri-Service Emergency Centre at Waterwells is not in use. [13394]

Robert Neill: The information requested is held locally and not by my Department.

Government Offices for the Regions: Redundancy

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to avoid redundancies from the Government Office Network in regions where there are vacancies in other parts of the civil service. [15240]

Greg Clark: The Secretary of State's announcement on 22 July made it clear that final decisions regarding the future of the Government offices will be made at the end of the Spending Review following consideration of consequential issues. Any decisions on the redeployment or release of staff will therefore be made once the Spending Review is complete. We are, however, already working with sponsor Departments with the aim of agreeing arrangements which will maximise the opportunities for redeployment and which in turn will minimise the possibility of compulsory exits in the event of the closure of the network.

Homelessness

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to reduce levels of homelessness *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Midlands. [15244]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to tackling and preventing homelessness. We have established a new cross-Government working group on homelessness bringing together Ministers from eight Government Departments to address the complex causes of homelessness and rough sleeping. A new approach to evaluating rough sleeping levels is being introduced so that there is clear information in all areas, to inform service provision and action to address the problem. £74 million in homelessness grant to local authorities and the voluntary sector has been allocated in 2010-11 to support work to prevent homelessness, including £2.7 million for local authorities in the west midlands.

Homelessness: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands who were homeless in each year since 2000. [15243]

Grant Shapps: Summary tables giving the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by each local authority and rough sleeper counts and estimates for the past 10 years have been placed in the Library of the House.

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected.

Information is also collected on rough sleeping. Since 1998, only councils in areas with a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to conduct an official rough sleeper count—which meant that only 70 councils submitted information to central Government. Figures published in July 2010 showed that under this previous method, on any given night there were 440 rough sleepers in England. However, when the remaining 256 councils provided estimates of the scale of the problem in their areas, this added a further estimated 807 rough sleepers—taking the national total to 1,247 rough sleepers on any given night.

Under new guidance, all councils across England will now provide information on rough sleeping. This move follows consultation with homelessness charities and councils and is aimed at getting a clearer picture of the scale of the problem in each area so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable in society.

Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/roughsleepingcount2010

Housing Improvements: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the level of assistance available for adaptations to dwellings and aids to enable elderly people to continue to live in their homes; if he will meet representatives of Age UK to discuss that matter; and if he will make a statement. [14464]

Andrew Stunell: CLG has received representations from the Home Adaptations Consortium in respect of the Disabled Facilities Grant programme that provides funding to local authorities for adaptations. Any further statements in respect of the Disabled Facilities Grant programme will be made following the spending review settlement.

Housing: Empty Property

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of council tax discounts on second properties on the number of empty properties. [13365]

Robert Neill: No assessment has been made of the effect of council tax discounts on second properties on the number of empty properties. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 477W.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwellings there are in each local authority area. [13729]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table giving details of the number of empty dwellings in each local authority in England in October 2009. The figures given include both short-term and long-term empty dwellings.

The data are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all 326 billing authorities in England on the annual Council Tax Base (CTB) and CTB (Supplementary) forms.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities had exercised their option to rescind the 50 per cent. council tax discount on empty properties after six months on the most recent date for which figures are available. [13738]

Robert Neill: In October 2009, 167 local authorities reported that they had stopped granting the 50% council tax discount on empty dwellings after six months. A further 98 indicated that they granted either the 50% discount or a lower discount for empty properties depending on the circumstance. The remaining 61 local authorities reported they continued to grant the 50% council tax discount on empty dwellings after six months.

These data are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all 326 billing authorities in England on the annual Council Tax Base (CTB) forms.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to assist property owners to bring empty properties back into use. [R] [13859]

Andrew Stunell: We are looking closely at the cause and nature of empty homes and the full range of potential measures to bring empty homes back into use, as part of a well functioning housing market

Local Government Finance

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the total interest paid by local authorities in 2009-10. [14025]

Robert Neill: In 2009-10 interest charges for all local authorities in England were provisionally estimated at £2.73 billion.

The data on provisional revenue outturn for the financial year 2009-10 are published at an all-England level as part of a Statistical Release. The provisional release for August 2010 was published on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/revenue200910provoutturn

Local Government Ombudsman

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the management and functions of the Local Government Ombudsman. [14365]

Robert Neill: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State told the House on 7 September, we intend to increase citizens rights of redress by ensuring that the Local Government Ombudsman's powers are increased and made legally binding.

The management of the Local Government Ombudsman service is a matter for the independent Commission for Local Administration in England.

Local Government: Pay

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to paragraph 2.18 of Budget 2010, HC 61, what progress has been made on ensuring that local government public sector workers earning less than £21,000 per year will receive a pay increase of at least £250 in 2011-12 and 2012-13; [15203]

(2) if he will discuss with Local Government Employers the merits of a guaranteed annual pay rise of at least £250 for local government staff with salaries of £21,000 or less in 2011-12 and 2012-13; [15204]

(3) if he will discuss with Local Government Employers the merits of agreement to binding arbitration with local government unions in respect of the 2010-11 local government pay claim. [15205]

Robert Neill: The pay of local Government employees is determined by the relevant National Joint Council (NJC) or Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) governing that workforce. In each instance, the governing NJC or JNC is made up of the employers' side and the trade union side. Central Government have no role in respect of any of the NJC's or JNC's that operate in local government.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future system of empty property rates. [13790]

Robert Neill: For 2010-11, all empty properties with rateable values up to £18,000 are exempt from business rates. 70% of properties have a rateable value below that threshold so, if empty, will pay no rates this year. The temporary threshold is intended to provide owners with help to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market. We recognize the impact of the last Government: increases in rates by curtailing empty property relief in a recession. The new Government face a great challenge handling the massive budget deficit we have inherited. We have however already taken steps to provide additional support on business rates by increasing SBRR over the next year.

Planning

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his proposed new planning legislation will include provisions for restrictions on the level of parish precepts. [13227]

Robert Neill: The consultation paper "Local Referendums To Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases", which was published on 30 July, includes proposals to allow local residents to veto excessive precept increases set by town and parish councils, subject to applying a 'de minimis' threshold which would exclude smaller councils. Final decisions in relation to council tax referendums, including whether and how to include parish councils, will be taken following consideration of the consultation responses. The deadline for those responses is 10 September 2010.

Planning Permission

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications were notified to his Department under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009 between 20 April 2009 and 19 April 2010. [14041]

Robert Neill: Between 20 April 2009 and 19 April 2010, 166 planning applications were referred under the above direction.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications which departed from the development plan were notified to his Department under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultation) (Departures) Directions 1999 between 30 August 1999 and 19 April 2009. [14042]

Robert Neill: Between 30 August 1999 and 19 April 2009, 8,663 planning applications were referred under the above departure direction.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times he has used his powers to revoke Article 4 directions issued by local planning authorities under the General Permitted Development Order in each year since 1995. [15239]

Robert Neill: Information on how many times since 1995 the Secretary of State has used his powers to cancel article 4 directions could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, my Department is not aware of any instances where the Secretary of State has used his powers to cancel an article 4 direction.

Planning Permission: Essex

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will use his powers under section 5 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to revoke the Article 4 direction issued by Maldon District Council on the Maypole Road Plots, north west of Furzelands Farms, Great Totham, Essex; and if he will make a statement. [15194]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State will consider formal requests to cancel article 4 directions. The Government's policy is that the cancellation of an article 4 direction by the Secretary of State would only be justified if there are very clear reasons why intervention at this level would be necessary. The Government believe that planning decisions on local matters are best taken at the local level.

Planning: Internet

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Planning Portal has spent on its Second Life website presence; and when the Second Life site was started. [15044]

Robert Neill: The Planning Portal commissioned a version of its successful Interactive House (which provides public information on permitted development rights) on Second Life in 2008, believing this would engage a younger audience in planning matters. Although customer feedback was positive, take-up was insufficient to warrant its continuation and the project was cancelled in earlier this year. The total cost to the Planning Portal was £14,000.

Repossession Orders: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were repossessed in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry in each year since 2000. [15245]

Grant Shapps: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole:

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2680.

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Other_publications/statistics/index.shtml.

Schools: Ventilation

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to Building Bulletin 101 on ventilation of school buildings, if he will review Part F of the Building Regulations for educational buildings for the purposes of ensuring that it makes clear it that a controllable system must have a level of automation or notification so that the desired air flow rate is achieved. [14761]

Andrew Stunell: Part F of the building regulations provides guidance on ventilation provision for dwellings and offices but not for different types of buildings. The part F Approved Document (statutory guidance) states that the requirements for other building types will be satisfied by following the appropriate design guidance. Building Bulletin 101 deals with the design of school buildings to meet the ventilation requirements of both the school premises regulations and part F of the building regulations. This would be the place to consider any changes to the requirements.

South West Regional Assembly

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the participation of local authority members in meetings of the South West Regional Assembly since 2004; [13404]

(2) what the cost to the public purse of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy has been. [13405]

Robert Neill: The South West Regional Assembly and the subsequent South West Leaders' Board received a total of £16,411,019 in annual departmental grants from 2004 until 2010 when this grant stream ended. No detailed estimate or breakdown exists of either the costs of the expenses incurred by elected members participating in regional assembly meetings or the revision of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. We have ended central funding to the South West Leaders Board as part of our plans to abolish regional government.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse attributable to activities in connection with fresh Traveller encampments on public land in the last 12 months. [13406]

Andrew Stunell: The former Commission for Racial Equality in its report "Common Ground" (published in 2006) estimated that local authorities spend £18 million per year on enforcement against unauthorised Traveller sites.

This information is not available as the data are not required from local authorities.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* regional and *(b)* national targets there are for local authorities in respect of the provision of Traveller sites. [14477]

Andrew Stunell: The revocation of regional strategies has removed the system of top-down regional numbers and plans. Local authorities are now responsible for determining the right level of site provision in their area, reflecting local need and historic demand, in consultation with local communities.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on emerging Government policy on the duty of local authorities to make provision for Traveller and Gypsy sites. [14478]

Andrew Stunell: The Government intend to revoke Planning Circular 01/06, subject to necessary impact assessments. It will be replaced with a short policy statement and light-touch guidance and we will be formally consulting with local government.

Wind Power: Yelvertoft

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will call in for examination the recent decision of the Planning Inspectorate on the proposed development of a windfarm at Yelvertoft; if he will take into account in that examination *(a)* the views expressed by residents of Yelvertoft and the surrounding area and *(b)* the decision on the application made by Daventry Borough Council; and if he will make a statement. [13533]

Robert Neill: The appeal against the decision of Daventry district council to refuse to grant planning permission for a wind farm on land near Glebe Farm, Yelvertoft, was allowed on 20 July 2010 by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. An appeal decision once issued, with the exception of very minor slips, cannot be amended or changed. Decisions are therefore final unless successfully challenged, on legal points only, in the High Court. In a planning appeal, as with all planning applications, decisions are made in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In reaching a decision an Inspector will take into account as material considerations other relevant planning issues, including those raised by local residents and the local planning authority concerned.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Tobacco

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will take steps to assist African countries in implementing the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. [12900]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises the important contribution of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) towards reducing future deaths and disease from non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The UK, as a world leader on tobacco control, is one of 168 parties to the FCTC and makes an annual financial contribution through the Department of Health. It is a very active participant in the development of sets of guidelines (through DH) and a protocol (through HM Revenue and Customs) to implement the framework.

DFID does not currently support any country to specifically implement the FCTC. However we do provide considerable bilateral health support to a number of African countries. This facilitates and supports countries to determine their own priorities and health plans. This budget support could extend to tobacco control activities as and when such support is requested from our partner countries.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to reduce the level of tobacco-related disease in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [12901]

Mr O'Brien: Tobacco is a growing risk factor for a number of non-communicable diseases. Unchecked, tobacco-related deaths will increase to more than 8 million per year by 2030. More than 80% of those deaths will be in low and middle-income countries.

The Department for International Development (DFID) provides technical and financial support to partner countries to help them tackle their pressing health priorities and strengthen health systems. DFID's support benefits the capacity of the services to diagnose and treat all diseases, including those that are related to tobacco.

The UK Government are also co-sponsoring a CARICOM resolution on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) for the UN General Assembly. Importantly this calls for a high-level UN event in 2011 to raise the profile of NCDs in the global arena. This will naturally highlight the need to do more globally to reduce tobacco-related morbidity and mortality.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what programmes his Department plans to participate to reduce the incidence of green tobacco sickness and poisoning from pesticides and fertilisers among child labourers in the African tobacco sector. [12903]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not support tobacco production.

DFID provides technical and financial support to partner countries to help them tackle their pressing health priorities and strengthen health systems. DFID's support benefits the capacity of the services to diagnose and treat all diseases, including those that are related to tobacco.

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13927]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's performance with regards to payments to all UK suppliers in August 2010 is as follows:

	Number
Total payments	1,874
Payments paid within 30 days	1,873
Payments paid over 30 days	1
Payments paid over 60 days	0
Payments made over 90 days	0

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, our non-departmental public body, does not make payments.

Departmental Offices

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's office accommodation he has offered to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport as office accommodation for staff of that Department; and when he expects such office accommodation to become available. [14690]

Mr O'Brien: Discussions with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regarding office accommodation are at an early stage. Following the redeployment of a number of posts to our office in East Kilbride, my Department is currently investigating a further reorganisation of our office at 1 Palace Street. No precise amount of space has been agreed, but reorganisation could free up part of the office from summer 2011.

Departmental Sick Leave

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many days on average employees of his Department were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [14760]

Mr O'Brien: During 2009-10, the average number of working days lost to sickness absence per employee in the Department for International Development was 4.9.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what files his Department holds on *(a)* the United Nations Population Fund, *(b)* the International Planned Parenthood Federation and *(c)* Marie Stopes International. [14318]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses an electronic data records management (EDRM) system. Since the EDRM system was introduced in 2005, records relating to the United Nations Population Fund, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and Marie Stopes International have been stored within the EDRM system. To provide information on all the files held on the EDRM system would incur a disproportionate cost.

Multi-donor Climate Investment Funds

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the World Bank-administered multi-donor climate investment funds. [13445]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) carries out annual reviews of the climate investment funds (CIFs), in line with its standard procedures for monitoring and evaluation. The first annual review was completed in May 2010, using evidence from the design phase of the CIFs and the early plans for CIFs investments. The Department judged that the CIFs will largely achieve their objectives.

The CIFs are also currently being assessed under DFID's Multilateral Aid Review (MAR), which aims to ensure maximum effectiveness and value for money from DFID's contributions to multilateral agencies.

An independent evaluation of the CIFs and the impacts of their activities will begin in 2011. This will be carried out jointly by the independent evaluation departments of the multilateral development banks.

Overseas Territories Environment Programme

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for the future funding of the Overseas Territories Environment Programme. [14143]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers are reviewing the DFID aid programme to the UK overseas territories to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer, and fulfil our obligations to the citizens of the territories. Future funding for the joint Foreign and Commonwealth and DFID Overseas Territories Environment Programme will be determined as part of this review.

UN Development Fund for Women

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to provide to the United Nations Development Fund for Women in the period to 2015. [14226]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) with core support of £3 million in each year since 2004. 2010 is the last year we will provide this support.

In January 2011 UN Women, the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, will begin operations. This new body will consolidate the work of UNIFEM and the other UN bodies working specifically on gender equality. Decisions on UK funding for UN Women will be informed by the ongoing Multilateral Aid Review, which will conclude in 2011.

A pre-existing funding commitment of £3.25 million over four years to 2012 for UNIFEM's Women's Peacebuilding and Prevention of Sexual Violence programme and support for UNIFEM projects and programmes at country level will be transferred to UN Women.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had on legislative proposals for local carbon budget legislation to limit emissions in each local authority area. [14908]

Gregory Barker: Local authorities need to show strong leadership and accountability in cutting emissions from their own estates and operations and those arising within their areas, and have an important role in contributing to the UK's statutory carbon reduction targets.

We are currently exploring all options for local carbon reduction and have an ongoing dialogue at all levels with the local authorities, the Local Government Group, Friends of the Earth and other interested parties to determine how to optimise the local authority contribution. We expect and will encourage local authorities to develop stretching ambitions on carbon emissions.

Civil Nuclear Police Authority: Operating Costs

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the running costs of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority were in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by budgetary heading. [14156]

Charles Hendry: Details of the operating costs of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) are contained within the CNPA Annual Report and Accounts. Copies of the report can be obtained from the Vote Office in the House of Commons, and it is also available from the CNPA website:

www.cnpa.police.uk

The following table provides audited operating cost information for the 2009-10 financial year and unaudited information for the five months from 1 April to 31 August 2010.

Civil Nuclear Police Authority

£000

Description	*12 months to 31 March 2010* *Audited*	*5 months to 31 August 2010* *Unaudited*
Staff costs	44,945	19,946
External Charges		
Subsistence	698	337
Car hire	305	114
Mileage allowance	230	107
Other travel and subsistence costs	197	109
Rentals under operating leases	332	8
Rental of the Constabulary's training facilities	360	—
Other rent charges	63	334
Telecommunications	612	313
IT support charges	1,057	562
Training costs	843	327
Professional services	518	177

Civil Nuclear Police Authority

		£000
	12 months to 31 March 2010	*5 months to 31 August 2010*
Description	*Audited*	*Unaudited*
Course fees	446	118
Insurance	278	111
Repairs and maintenance	470	197
Relocation	237	86
Recruitment	296	46
Payments under service level agreements	72	34
Site support charges	106	60
Legal fees	77	36
Regulatory charges	46	28
Security vetting	184	57
Range fees	87	54
Other external charges	732	515
Total external charges	8,246	3,731
Operating materials		
Motor fuel	285	137
Weapons	209	50
IT equipment	172	44
Inventory withdrawals	835	343
Stationery	104	29
Non-capital equipment	92	100
Firearms spares and supplies	226	258
Dog-related expenditure	55	15
Electricity charges	27	13
Inventory items written off due to obsolescence	79	—
Other operating materials	234	123
Total operating materials	2,318	1,111
Other operating charges	97	(9)
Non-cash items		
Amortisation of intangible assets	71	32
Depreciation	824	281
Capital grants	(105)	(24)
Provision provided in the year	123	—
Provisions not required written back	(40)	—
Total non-cash items	873	289

Coal Fired Power Stations: Hunterston

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make approval of the application for consent for a coal-fired power station at Hunterston conditional on the carbon emissions rate at the station being no higher than those generated in a modern gas plant. [14841]

Charles Hendry: Applications to build and operate power stations over 50MW in Scotland are made to the Scottish Ministers. This is a devolved matter, and the UK Government cannot intervene in individual applications. We will be working closely with Scottish Ministers to ensure a complementary approach towards new coal capacity across Great Britain, including the role of an Emissions Performance Standard in driving emissions reductions and incentivising new investment in carbon capture and storage.

Energy and Climate Change: International Co-operation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were made at the recent joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank spring meetings on energy and climate change-related matters. [13898]

Mr O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

At the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank spring meetings, the Development Committee endorsed a general capital increase alongside a new post-crisis strategy, and suite of reforms, to strengthen the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the World Bank Group, and shareholding reform to increase the voting power of developing and transition countries. The post-crisis strategy includes climate change and energy issues. Beyond that, no specific agreements on energy and climate change-related matters were made at the spring meetings. The Department for International Development continues to work closely with the World Bank, and other multilateral development banks, on energy and climate change-related issues.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in achieving a 10% year-on-year reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the Government estate; and if he will make a statement. [13964]

Charles Hendry: On 14 May my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that he wanted this to be the greenest Government ever, and set a challenging target of reducing Government's emissions by 10% in 12 months. Since then, all Departments have submitted their plans for action, detailing how they will contribute towards the target. All ministerial headquarter buildings have also published real-time energy use data, online.

Departments are currently submitting data on emissions from the first quarter of the year, and, with the Efficiency Reform Group, we are establishing the baseline against which progress will be monitored. I expect to be able to make an announcement shortly on progress against the target.

Offshore Industry: Employment

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to increase the number of jobs associated with the offshore energy industry. [14044]

Charles Hendry: Successfully exploiting the UK's renewable energy resources will make a key contribution to meeting our renewables targets, and will also provide opportunities for investment in job creation in new industries and technologies.

This includes offshore wind, where we are already the world's number one market, as well as the emerging wave and tidal energy sector, where a key element is the development of marine energy parks around the UK coast.

We are also committed to the full development of the UK's oil and gas reserves, which will bring economic and employment benefits.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider introducing a pre-accreditation scheme for feed-in tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [14437]

Charles Hendry: All aspects of the FITs scheme, including accreditation and certification issues, will be subject to periodic reviews.

As the scheme was launched in April and is at an early stage, we are continually collecting data which, as we learn more, will be fed into the review process.

Wind Power: Planning

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward an energy planning strategy which provides for a determination of *(a)* the number of wind farms required nationally and *(b)* the location of such installations in a manner which (i) maximises efficient energy production and (ii) minimises disturbance to the countryside and to village communities. [13532]

Charles Hendry: The Coalition Programme for Government makes clear our commitment to giving a greater say to people, communities and local councils to shape their surroundings through a faster and more democratically accountable planning system. We intend to publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development.

My right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

We are committed to being the greenest Government ever and to the development of wind energy in the UK, both onshore and offshore. The UK has outstanding wind resources and onshore wind is one of the most established, widespread and cost-effective renewable electricity technologies in the UK. Wind energy will therefore be vital to meeting our renewable energy, climate change and low carbon economic growth goals.

We are keen to ensure that both our commitment to localism and to tackling climate change are mutually supportive. We want communities and individuals to benefit from the increase in renewable energy, including wind power, and to own a stake in our collective low carbon future. This is why we committed to encouraging more community-owned renewable energy and allowing communities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rates they generate.

The assessment of an application to develop a wind farm already includes, amongst other things, an analysis of visual and landscape impacts to ascertain whether the location of the wind farm is acceptable. The Government consider that these impacts are best assessed on a case-by-case basis so that local factors can be taken fully into account.

HEALTH

Brighton Pavilion Constituency

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Brighton Pavilion constituency the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency from *(a)* May 1997 to April 2010 and *(b)* since May 2010. [13457]

Mr Simon Burns: The records of the previous Government are widely available in the public domain.

At this early point, it is not possible to provide statistical information as to how Brighton Pavilion constituency has been affected by this Government's health policy since May 2010. However, this Government have introduced a series of national policies which Brighton Pavilion will benefit from as they are implemented, such as:

£50 million of funding to support access to cancer medicines;

a new, free, three-digit urgent and out of hours care number 111—to be a single point of access for those with non-emergency care needs; and

mandatory reporting of when patients are placed in mixed-sex accommodation, and strengthening the penalties for when hospitals do so without clinical justification.

This Government have also set out their plans for reforms to the way the national health service is managed and delivered. These include:

cutting bureaucracy by requiring the NHS to cut the cost of management by over 45% and rationalising and streamlining the Department of Health's arm's length bodies, delivering total recurrent savings of over £1 billion to reinvest in front-line services for patients;

giving general practitioners the ability to commission services which meet the needs of their patients and extending the right of patients to choose treatments and services;

putting the operational, day-to-day management of the NHS into the hands of an independent NHS commissioning board; and

measuring clinically-based outcomes, rather than targets, which will deliver results for patients over the long term.

Cancer: Drugs

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's estimate is of the average length of time which will be taken to decide on a patient application for funding for a treatment through the interim Cancer Drugs Fund arrangements. [14716]

Mr Burstow: We expect local arrangements for the additional in-year funding to support improved access to cancer drugs, announced on 27 July 2010, to take into account the guidance in the national health service medical director's letter to strategic health authorities which states:

> "Arrangements should support timely decision-making, bearing in mind the 31 day cancer treatment standard".

A copy of this letter is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_117996

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Health Services

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* an appointment with a cancer specialist and *(b)* hospital treatment from the time of referral by a GP in (i) May 2010 and (ii) 1997. [14881]

Mr Burstow: Any patient urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP) should be seen by a specialist and begin the diagnostic process within two weeks, unless they choose to wait longer.

Information on average waiting times between GP referral and first outpatient attendance or first treatment for cancer patients are not collected centrally and have not been estimated.

In the latest period for which statistics are available (Quarter 1 2010-11) 95.5% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer and 87.5% of people began treatment within 62 days of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer. Official and national statistics covering cancer waiting times were not published by the Department before 2001, and due to a change in the manner in which statistics are collected within the national health service, current data are not comparable to periods prior to 1 January 2009.

Community Hospitals

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what organisations will have responsibility for community hospitals following the introduction of GP commissioning. [14715]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" on 22 July 2010 which set out the intended arrangements for general practitioner (GP) commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board. A copy has already been placed in the Library. We are engaging on these proposals and consulting on specific questions highlighted in the document.

Under our proposals GP consortia will commission the great majority of national health service services for their patients, including, where appropriate, community hospital services. There will, however, be some exceptions, where it makes sense for the NHS Commissioning Board to have responsibility for commissioning services. The proposed exceptions include primary medical care. This may also include community hospital services, where these provide primary care services.

Organisations providing community services will be responsible for responding to the commissioning intentions of the GP commissioning consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board, and the day-to-day management of community hospitals.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13048]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's staff reimbursable expenses from July 2008 to March 2009, for the 2009-10 financial year, and for the first quarter of 2010-11, were as follows:

	Staff reimbursable expenses (£)
July 2008 to March 2009	971,657.85
April 2009 to March 2010	1,179, 246.87
April 2010 to June 2010	212,669.19

The Department's Business Management System (BMS) was introduced in July 2008. BMS readily allows for reimbursable expenses to be extracted from the accounting system and totalled. The previous accounting system (VISTA) does not allow such interrogation without disproportionate cost.

The 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims[1] since 2004 were as follows:

2004-05

£7,156.96
£6,765.33
£5,235.20
£4,033.70
£3,853.00
£3,544.60
£2,554.72
£2,546.51
£1,952.50
£1,940.28

2005-06

£13,688.30
£6,337.81
£5,365.80
£4,679.60
£4,416.70
£4,334.50
£4,278.65
£4,245.15
£4,047.91
£4,000.00

2006-07

£18,505.00
£15,383.53
£6,011.90
£5,397.88
£4,517.10
£4,511.65
£4,355.00
£4,250.00
£3,941.80
£3,587.37

2007-08

£17,695.53

£8,500.00
£8,402.58
£6,479.61
£5,486.84
£5,000.00
£4,683.65
£4,411.09
£3,868.10
£3,843.77

2008-09

£19,740.00
£18,589.59
£11,486.19
£10,328.67
£9,165.32
£8,280.06
£7,781.80
£6,934.51
£6,766.40
£6,448.09

2009-10

£9,033.56
£8,926.80
£8,870.20
£8,141.56
£6,623.08
£6,528.84
£5,695.90
£5,425.50
£5,217.92
£4,114.55

The above data have been sourced from the Department's accounting systems (BMS and VISTA) going back to 2004. This is consistent with the Department's Retention Schedule, which is informed by the National Archives "Records Management Retention Scheduling—Employee Personnel Records" (page 6, Travel and Subsistence—claims and authorisation"—retention period of six years).

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13310]

Mr Simon Burns: The proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August was 97.76% and 97.96% respectively.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13925]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of payments made to suppliers by the Department, its agency and non-departmental public bodies within 30 days and over 30 days after the date of the invoice is shown in the following table. It is not a requirement to record payments made after 60 and 90 days and to collect this information retrospectively would be at disproportionate cost.

	Payments made to suppliers within 30 days (April-June 2010)	*Payments made to suppliers over 30 days (April-June 2010)*
Department of Health	49,990	455
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (Agency)	2,643	8
Appointments Commission	370	26
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	154	0
General Social Care Council	1,942	109
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	324	12
Health Protection Agency	19,715	300
Health and Social Care Information Centre	1,436	52
Human Tissue Authority	454	1
NHS Business Service Authority	5,107	527
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement	2,456	943
NHS Blood and Transplant	26,832	4,014
NHS Litigation Authority	156	35
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	1,836	19
National Patient Safety Agency	2,068	293
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse	462	52
Care Quality Commission	2,556	335

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each year. [13312]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not settled any transport-related fines for staff since 2005. The Department's policy is not to reimburse staff for any penalty imposed under the Road Traffic Acts or any associated expense arising from a traffic accident or offence. This includes parking fines.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS-related non-departmental public bodies *(a)* have been abolished since May 2010 and *(b)* will be abolished in the next five years; and what effect the abolition of each is estimated to have on his Department's public expenditure in each of the next four years. [13230]

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[1] The amounts shown are for a single claim, but cover arbitrary periods, which in some cases stretch over many months.

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010 and available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/LiberatingtheNHS/index.htm

and the Department's review of its arm's-length bodies "Liberating the NHS: Report of the arm's-length bodies review", published on 26 July 2010 and available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117691

set out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured, including the structure of the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

No NHS-related NDPB has been abolished since May 2010. The report on the review of arm's-length bodies sets out the Government's intentions for each of the Department's 18 arm's-length bodies which will be implemented by 2013.

The costs of the transition to the new structure, and of running the reformed organisations, will not be known until the precise details and process of the structural changes have been determined. An impact assessment of the proposals made in the arm's-length bodies review report will be published alongside the Health Bill, in due course.

Diabetes

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on treating type 1 diabetes and its complications in each of the last 10 years; and what sources and assumptions were used to derive these figures. [14941]

Mr Burstow: The Department does not collect data on the cost of treating type 1 diabetes and its complications.

Diabetes is a complex condition that affects all parts of the body making it difficult to calculate an exact cost.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in England with type 1 diabetes; and what sources and assumptions were used to derive these figures. [14942]

Mr Burstow: The Department does not have an estimate of the total number of people with type 1 diabetes. According to the Quality and Outcomes Framework data there are currently 2.3 million people diagnosed with diabetes in England. We cannot however separate this into type 1 and type 2 diabetes. It is estimated that approximately 10% of people with diabetes have type 1 diabetes.

In March 2009, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health published "Growing up with Diabetes: children and young people with diabetes in England". The report concluded that 22,947 children and young people have diabetes, with the majority of these having type 1 diabetes.

Epilepsy: Health Services

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve services for people with epilepsy. [14040]

Mr Burstow: The National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions is the key tool for delivering the Government's strategy to support and improve services for those living with long-term neurological conditions, including epilepsy.

It is the responsibility of local health commissioners to ensure that they commission local services to meet the needs of their population. This includes ensuring that all relevant guidelines, including those issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, are able to be implemented where deemed appropriate.

In the future, outcomes, which the national health service will be expected to achieve, will be set via the NHS Outcomes Framework. We will not tell the NHS how to achieve these outcomes but will hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivery through the framework. This framework, which is currently out for consultation, contains domains specifically relevant to epilepsy:

Patient reported outcome measures for specific long-term conditions. A pilot covering epilepsy has already been developed;

A proposed indicator on the percentage of patients aged 18 years and over on drug treatment for epilepsy who have been seizure free for the last 12 months; and

Proposed indicators for emergency hospital admissions for both acute and chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions (epilepsy is included within the definition of both).

Eyesight: Testing

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take further steps to encourage people to have frequent eye tests. [14108]

Mr Simon Burns: Free sight tests are available under the national health service to many people, including people aged 60 and over, children under 16, those aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, people on benefits, those people at particular risk of developing eye disease, and people who are registered blind or partially sighted or who have a complex spectacle prescription. Sight tests allow the opportunity to review all aspects of eye health, including investigations for signs of disease.

The Department has worked, and continues to work with NHS Choices on the development of articles and videos to raise the profile of visual health and promote the importance of regular sight tests.

We also recently worked with the organisers of National Eye Health Week to develop a new patient information leaflet, which raises awareness of eye health. The leaflet was launched to coincide with National Eye Health week, which ran from 14-20 June.

The uptake of NHS sight tests is increasing. In 2009-10, there were 11.8 million NHS sight tests, an increase of 4.7% on 2008-09.

Information about the extensive arrangements for providing help with NHS optical services and other health costs is published in leaflet HC11 'Are you entitled to help with health costs?'

General Practitioners

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the accounts of GP consortia will be audited; and what mechanism will be used to assess whether they are achieving value for money when purchasing skills and services from the private sector. [13461]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published 'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients' on 22 July 2010 which set out the intended arrangements for general practitioner (GP) commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board. We are engaging on these proposals and consulting on specific questions highlighted in the document.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for allocating and accounting for national health service resources. This will include calculating practice-level budgets and allocating these resources directly to consortiums. Consortiums will be responsible for managing these budgets, and deciding how best to use the resources to meet the health care needs of their patients.

The commissioning budgets will include a maximum allowance to cover management costs. Consortiums will be free to decide how best to use this allowance to carry out commissioning activities. Commissioning for patients asks for views on what support GP consortiums will need to access and evaluate external providers of commissioning support.

A Government response to the consultation will be published alongside the Health Bill, which will be introduced into Parliament later this year. This legislation will set out a consortium's duties in relation to financial management, including requirements in relation to reporting, audit and accounts.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms GP consortia will use to manage demand within the budget allocated to them; what assessment has been made of the risk of GP consortia incurring deficits; and what failure regime will be established. [13463]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health published "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" on 22 July 2010 which set out the intended arrangements for general practitioner (GP) commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board. We are engaging on these proposals and consulting on specific questions highlighted in the document.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for allocating and accounting for national health service resources. This will include calculating practice-level budgets and allocating these resources directly to consortiums. Consortiums will be responsible for managing these budgets, and deciding how best to use the resources to meet the health care needs of their patients.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for holding consortiums to account for stewardship of NHS resources and developing an assurance process which will hold GP consortiums to account for the outcomes they achieve. In turn, each consortium will hold its constituent practices to account against these objectives.

The NHS Commissioning Board will have a significant role in managing financial risk, for example through oversight of risk pooling within and between consortiums. Consortiums should have a level of flexibility in deciding how best to manage financial risk within the overall regime set by the NHS Commissioning Board to encourage good financial management. The principles for managing underspends and overspends, including whether any planned and managed underspends may be carried over to future years to invest in services and whether any actual overspends will be deducted from the following year's allocation, will be agreed between the NHS Commissioning Board, the Department of Health and HM Treasury.

The NHS Commissioning Board will intervene in the event that a consortium is unable to fulfil its duties effectively or where there is a significant risk of failure. Ultimately, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for ensuring and maintaining an effective and fully comprehensive system of GP consortiums.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms will be used to prevent conflicts of interest where private providers join GP consortia in respect of commissioning decisions using NHS funds. [13464]

Mr Simon Burns: We propose to set out in legislation the duties of the NHS Board and commissioners to promote choice, to act transparently and non-discriminatorily in all commissioning activities, and to prohibit agreements or other actions to restrict competition against patients' and taxpayers' interests.

Monitor will have powers to investigate and remedy complaints regarding commissioners' procurement decisions, or other conduct which may be anti-competitive, acting as arbiter.

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average likely *(a)* annual administrative cost and *(b)* headcount of each GP commissioning group to be established under his proposals. [13528]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published, on 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

It is envisaged that within commissioning budgets, GP consortia will receive a maximum management allowance to reflect the management costs associated with commissioning. Consortia will be free to decide how to use this management allowance to carry out commissioning activities. However, it has not yet been decided what the level of allowance will be.

"Commissioning for Patients", published on 22 July, set out these proposals in more detail, providing the basis for fuller consultation and engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

It is therefore too early to say at this stage what this means for the annual administrative cost and head count of each GP commissioning group.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what protection he plans to put in place for the terms and conditions of employment of staff transferred from primary care trusts to GP commissioning bodies under his proposals for the reorganisation of NHS commissioning; and if he will make a statement. [13826]

Mr Simon Burns: Staff transferring from primary care trusts directly to general practitioner commissioning bodies will transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE), with their terms and conditions protected and will be able to retain membership of the NHS pension scheme.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GPs will have the power to decide the membership of GP consortia. [14645]

Mr Simon Burns: We intend that every general practitioner (GP) practice will be a member of a consortium. Practices will have flexibility to form consortia in ways that they think will secure the best healthcare and health outcomes for their patients and locality. The NHS Commissioning Board will have a duty to ensure comprehensive coverage of GP consortia, and will assign practices to consortia where this is necessary.

It is also intended that consortia, once established, will be statutory public bodies, with powers and responsibilities set out through primary and secondary legislation. By that time, each consortium would need to have chosen its own accountable officer and chief financial officer.

We believe that consortia should be held to account for the outcomes they achieve and for the fulfilment of appropriate duties, rather than for the way in which they constitute themselves. We do not intend to set out detailed or prescriptive requirements in relation to the internal governance of a consortium, beyond essential requirements for example in relation to financial probity and accountability and audit.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers the NHS Commissioning Board will have regarding membership of GP consortia. [14646]

Mr Simon Burns: We would wish general practitioner (GP) practices to make their own decisions, as far as possible, on membership of consortia. The NHS Commissioning Board will have a duty to ensure comprehensive coverage of GP consortia across the country. To meet this duty, our proposals indicate that, in the last resort, the NHS Commissioning Board would need to be able to assign a practice to a consortium, but we hope that this power would rarely need to be used.

General Practitioners: ICT

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that IT systems provided to support GP commissioning are *(a)* cost effective and *(b)* reliable. [14643]

Mr Simon Burns: Procurement of information systems to support general practitioner (GP) commissioning would be a matter for individual GP consortia, and it would be the responsibility of systems suppliers to meet the requirements of their GP consortia customers. GP commissioners will have to use agreed technical and data standards set by the NHS Commissioning Board to promote compatibility between different systems. The NHS Commissioning Board will provide a framework to support GP consortia in commissioning services to ensure there is consistency in the information that commissioners and providers are using, and compatibility between information systems.

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust: Clinical Trials

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical trials are taking place at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital; how many of them are part-funded by pharmaceutical companies; and how many of them are taking place in the Rheumatology Department. [14076]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally by the Department. The Department suggests that the hon. Member may wish to contact Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust directly.

Health Centres: Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the proportion of clients at the new health centre in Fallowfield, Manchester who are resident in the M19 postal district. [14652]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, it can be obtained directly from Manchester Primary Care Trust.

Health Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps will be taken to ensure that any lack of financial viability of private suppliers of patient services will not adversely effect such services under the proposals in the Health White Paper. [13460]

Mr Simon Burns: As in the current system, commissioners will retain primary responsibility for ensuring the continuity of service provision. Under the proposals in the White Paper, Monitor would have powers through its licensing regime to protect access to essential services where a community was highly dependent upon a particular provider. We are currently consulting on these proposals and further details are set out in the consultation document "Liberating the NHS: Regulating healthcare providers", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Disability

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from disability organisations on future levels of spending by his Department for people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [13888]

Mr Burstow: Ministers have not received any representations from disability organisations on future levels of spending by this Department.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in his discussion with his Isle of Man counterpart in respect of a new reciprocal health agreement with the UK; whether he expects any such agreement to be in place before the end of September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [12610]

Anne Milton: I refer to my written statement of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 22WS.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the views of people with a learning disability are taken into account through HealthWatch. [13856]

Mr Simon Burns: "Liberating the NHS: Local democratic legitimacy in health", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, sets out the consultation proposals for establishing HealthWatch. It proposes that local involvement networks (LINks) evolve to become local HealthWatch organisations. It further proposes that HealthWatch England will be established to provide national leadership and strengthen the public and patient voice.

HealthWatch will strengthen the collective voice of patients and the public, including those with learning difficulties. The Department is also exploring how Learning Disability Partnership Boards could link with HealthWatch.

HealthWatch Groups: Finance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding will be provided to local authorities to fund HealthWatch groups in their areas when they are established. [13449]

Mr Simon Burns: "Liberating the NHS. Local democratic legitimacy in health", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, sets out the consultation proposals for establishing HealthWatch. It proposes that local involvement networks (LINks) evolve to become local HealthWatch organisations. It further proposes that HealthWatch England will be established to provide national leadership and strengthen the public and patient voice.

All funding decisions are subject to the spending review, which will conclude on 20 October.

Hospitals: Parking

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that patients are adequately informed about hospital car parking charges; [13572]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure hospitals observe its guidance on car park charges. [13573]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service organisations have the autonomy to make decisions that best suit their local circumstances. It would therefore be inconsistent with this autonomy to issue mandatory guidance to this NHS on this matter. However, should charges discourage patients from accessing their services or friends and families from visiting patients, or prevent staff from doing their jobs properly, those NHS organisations have a responsibility to look at that further. This includes ensuring that patients and visitors should be informed of car parking arrangements, charges and concessions.

Midwives: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per full-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in each region in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [13955]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of births per midwife (full-time equivalent) in 2008 and 2009 by strategic health authority.

	2008	*2009*
England	34.3	33.2
North East	28.4	28.0
North West	29.1	28.7
Yorkshire & the Humber	34.1	32.2
East Midlands	40.1	38.1
West Midlands	32.9	31.8
East of England	39.8	39.0
London	34	34.2
South East Coast	36.5	34.0
South Central	40.3	39.0
South West	32.6	30

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Monitor: Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources will be provided to Monitor to enable it to carry out the functions of economic regulator of providers of NHS care; and if he will make a statement. [13462]

Mr Simon Burns: We will be able to confirm any allocation of resources for Monitor to carry out its new functions in due course. We have published proposals for consultation[1]. However, it will be for Parliament to determine Monitor's new functions, as economic regulator, through the legislative process.

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[1] "Liberating the NHS: regulating healthcare providers" (Department of Health; July 2010)

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in England with multiple sclerosis; how much the NHS has spent on treating this condition in each of the last 10 years; and what sources and assumptions were used to derive these figures. [14943]

Mr Burstow: In 2005 the Department estimated that 52,000-62,000 people in England and Wales were living with multiple sclerosis. This estimate was taken from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) multiple sclerosis guideline published in 2003.

In March 2009, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health published "Growing up with Diabetes: children and young people with diabetes in England". The report concluded that 22,947 children and young people have diabetes, with the majority of these having type 1 diabetes.

NHS: Internet

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers and officials in his Department and *(b)* representatives of the private and voluntary sectors on the NHS Choices website. [13417]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no specific recent discussions regarding the NHS Choices website with either Ministers or officials in the Department or with representatives of the private and voluntary sector.

Online and digital health information and service provision, including NHS Choices, has been discussed in the context of the White Paper: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and related policy consultations.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the *(a)* private and *(b)* voluntary sector on the future of the NHS Choices website. [14774]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no specific recent discussions regarding the future of NHS Choices website with the private or voluntary sector.

Online and digital health information and service provision, including NHS Choices, has been discussed in the context of the White Paper: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and related policy consultations.

NHS: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* full-time equivalents were employed in the NHS in each year since 2006. [13957]

Mr Simon Burns: The annual national health service work force census shows the number of staff working in the NHS as at 30 September each year. The following table shows the number of headcount and full-time equivalent staff employed in the NHS for 2006-09.

NHS staff 2006-09, England, as at 30 September each year

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Headcount total	1,338,779	1,331,109	1,368,693	1,431,996
Full-time equivalent total	1,095,427	1,089,436	1,125,131	1,177,056

Source:
The NHS Information Centre.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review the use of private finance initiative projects in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [14470]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently no plans to review the use of the private finance initiative (PFI) as a procurement vehicle in the national health service. The Department will continue to encourage the NHS to consider a PFI option alongside a publicly funded option in business cases for new build hospital schemes and to proceed with the option that offers best value for money.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations he plans to consult as part of his Department's review of palliative care funding; [13580]

(2) whether his Department's review of palliative care funding will consider access to round-the-clock community nursing for terminally ill patients. [13581]

Mr Burstow: The coalition's programme for Government includes a commitment to introduce

> "a new per-patient funding system for all hospices and providers of palliative care".

The independent Palliative Care Funding Review will look at how this can be taken forward. It will cover both adults' and children's services and will report back by summer 2011.

The review will look at how Government can make sure that the money intended to help look after people who are approaching the end of life, and children who need palliative care, is spent in the right way. This will better enable people—children, adults and families—to choose how and from whom they receive the care they need.

The review is of funding for dedicated palliative care services and will make recommendations for a funding system that will cover care provided by the NHS, a hospice or any appropriate provider:

> which encourages more community-based care, so people can remain in their own homes; and
>
> will be fair and transparent to all organisations involved in palliative care.

The Palliative Care Funding Review is independent of Government. Tom Hughes-Hallett, chief executive of Marie Curie Cancer Care, is chairing the review in a personal capacity.

The review is considering the funding mechanisms for dedicated palliative care for adults and children. The first phase of the review will determine which services should fall within that definition. Mr Hughes-Hallett has invited all interested organisations and parties to contribute to the review through a dedicated website,

http://palliativecarefunding.org.uk

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review his Department's end of life care strategy. [13583]

Mr Burstow: The Department's end of life care strategy was published in July 2008. There are no plans to review the strategy. We are committed to implementing the strategy, which sets out an important programme of action.

The second annual report on the strategy was published on 25 August.

Patient Choice Schemes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the choose and book system following the introduction of GP commissioning. [14644]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" states that

> "we will look at ways of ensuring that Choose and Book usage is maximised"

as part of introducing choice of named consultant-led team. We are currently consulting on general practitioner commissioning and will be publishing a consultation document shortly on patient choice. We cannot pre-empt the outcome of these consultations.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to provide free prescriptions for people (1) with lifelong illnesses; [14020]

(2) aged below 60 years who have Parkinson's disease. [14021]

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to phase out prescription charges for all patients with long-term conditions. [13825]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Members to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 847-48W.

Rare Diseases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are plans to appoint a national clinical director for rare diseases. [14163]

Mr Simon Burns: We are not yet in a position to say how the recommendation of the former Chief Medical Officer to appoint a new national clinical director for rare diseases might fit with new arrangements for specialised commissioning following the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS".

The issue of such an appointment will be considered in the context of the responses we receive to the consultations currently in train on implementing the White Paper strategy.

Thames Valley Primary Care Agency

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the Thames Valley Primary Care Agency following the introduction of GP commissioning. [14642]

Mr Simon Burns: The proposed NHS Commissioning Board, once established in shadow form, would work with primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure a smooth transition for any functions associated with commissioning of primary care that needed to move from PCTs to the board.

Thrombolysis: Health Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to expedite provision of thrombolysis treatment for stroke victims in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* England. [13422]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Sentinel Stroke audit 2010 shows that patients in 88% of the hospitals which directly admit stroke patients are now able to access this treatment but only 50% of centres provide access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As the national health service continues to implement the national stroke strategy and develops pathways that improve out-of-hours access to brain imaging for all eligible patients and, where appropriate, telemedicine, we expect to see a continued increase in rates of delivery of this therapy.

Access to timely brain scans has been identified as a key area for improvement in the Accelerating Stroke Improvement work which we are supporting. This work aims to deliver further progress in improving the whole pathway of stroke care across the country, including the West Midlands, in the current financial year.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve access to post-acute services for thrombolysis patients; [13423]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve access to long-term rehabilitation services for thrombolysis patients. [13424]

Mr Simon Burns: Stroke remains a priority for the Government and has a Tier 1 Vital Sign in the revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010-11. We agree with the National Audit Office and the Committee of Public Accounts' (PAC) conclusions that there is still room for improvement in stroke care, especially in post-acute care and rehabilitation for stroke survivors where progress has been slower than with acute services. The Government's response to the PAC report sets out the work that is being done to achieve further progress.

The recently published National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard for Stroke, which provides the definitive definition of high quality care, recognises the importance of specialist rehabilitation for stroke survivors.

The Accelerating Stroke Improvement programme which we are supporting aims to deliver further progress in improving stroke care across the whole pathway during this financial year. It identifies key areas for improvement in the post-acute part of the pathway. These include the development of joint care plans, systematic reviews of stroke survivors post-discharge to ensure that their needs are identified, carers assessments and provision of psychological support.

Vitamin D

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of availability of treatments for vitamin D deficiency; [13584]

(2) what steps he plans to take to increase the supply of high-dose vitamin D injections. [13585]

Mr Simon Burns: There are various forms of vitamin D. Ergocalciferol and colecalciferol are used in the prevention of simple vitamin D deficiency.

Ergocalciferol tablets have been discontinued due to lack of availability of active ingredient of a suitable quality. There are no United Kingdom Marketing

Authorisations for oral colecalciferol. Licensing of medicines is a matter for individual companies. However, departmental officials have had discussions with several companies about the possibility of them supplying oral vitamin D.

There is one supplier of ergocalciferol injection to the UK market. There have been manufacturing difficulties, but the supplier has been making every effort to resolve these. The supplier is aware of UK demand and will be building up stocks accordingly.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on breaking up banks which have received funding from the public purse. [13604]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor has regular discussions with the Governor of the Bank of England to discuss such issues as are relevant at the time.

In June 2010, the Government asked Sir John Vickers to lead the Independent Commission on Banking, to look at the structuring of the UK banking sector and to make recommendations to the Government. The Commission will deliver its report to the Cabinet Committee on Banking Reform by the end of September 2011.

Car Allowances

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to adjust approved mileage allowance rates in line with changes made since 2002 to HM Revenue and Customs Advisory Fuel Rates for *(a)* 1,400 cc, *(b)* 1,401-2,100 cc and *(c)* 2,101 cc and above vehicles. [14071]

Justine Greening: The Government keep the rates under regular review as part of the Budget process.

Climate Change: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of International Monetary Fund special drawing rights as a source of climate finance. [13902]

Justine Greening: The Government are committed to delivering necessary climate finance to help developing counties, particularly the poorest, adapt to and mitigate climate change, including exploring innovative financing options. The Government will consider all options in the round, including through their participation in the High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing established under the Copenhagen Accord.

Credit Unions: Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the provision of financial support for community-owned renewable energy schemes from community-based credit unions; and if he will make a statement. [13432]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to empowering local authorities, communities and institutions to lead on innovation at local level. The Government want all interested communities and organisations, including credit unions, to be able to access the support made available through the Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) programme or the Renewables Obligation (RO) as appropriate to the scale of the project.

Further information on the FITs and the RO is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energymix/renewable/feedin_tariff/feedin_tariff.aspx

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uksupply/energy_mix/renewable/policy/renew_obs/renew_obs.aspx

To support this, my officials are working on developing a Community Energy Online toolkit. This will provide signposts and guidance on taking forward transformational projects and will provide advice on issues including funding, legal issues, location and technology choices. We are planning to launch this toolkit in the autumn.

Debts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the average level of household debt of the Government's programme of spending reductions and the proposed change to the standard rate of value added tax. [14140]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of Geoffrey Dicks, a member of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office of Budget Responsibility. I have asked Geoffrey to reply.

Letter from Geoffrey Dicks, dated 9 September 2010:

As a member of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question 14140.

The pre-Budget OBR forecast published on 14 June has total household debt at £1,561 billion by the end of 2011, compared to £1,519 billion at the end of 2009 (based on ONS figures), an increase of 2.8%. Net borrowing, defined as the change in the stock of debt, is therefore £42 billion over the two years.

The Budget OBR forecast published on 22 June has total household debt at £1,564 billion by the end of 2011. Net borrowing, defined as the change in the stock of debt, is therefore £45 billion over the two years. Debt is forecast to be higher by around 0.1% compared to the pre-Budget forecast.

However, as explained in both the pre-Budget forecast document and Annex C of the Budget (see paragraphs C.11, C53 and Box C.1), a comparison of the two forecasts does not provide a firm basis for an estimate of the economic effects of measures in the Budget.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13322]

Justine Greening: The proportion of invoices from suppliers paid within 10 days of receipt in July 2010 was 98.2%.

Information on the payment performance for August is not currently available. Details of the five-day payment performance for the Treasury Group are available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

around 15 days after the month end.

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13931]

Justine Greening: The payment performance for 2009-10 is shown in the following table.

				Days
	0-30	*31-60*	*61-90*	*90+*
HM Treasury	2,730	10	4	1
Debt Management Office	1,502	42	6	1
Asset Protection Agency	247	0	0	0
Royal Mint Advisory Committee	0	0	0	0

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* the Debt Management Office and *(b)* his Department spent on website design in each cost category between 2003-04 and 2006-07. [13350]

Mr Hoban: In September 2006, the DMO completed a three-year project to completely re-engineer its website

www.dmo.gov.uk

at a total cost of £540,000. The DMO consolidated three websites into one, which is relied upon by markets for a range of key gilt and money market data and operational announcements.

This cost includes resources utilised on the development, design and construction phases of this project; however, the design costs themselves cannot be disaggregated.

The departmental website

www.hm.-treasury.gov.uk

was relaunched in 2004 to improve navigation and meet accessibility standards at a design cost of £22,000 excluding VAT.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in (i) each (A) nation and (B) region of the UK in each of the last five years. [12452]

Justine Greening: The Treasury does not record public relations expenditure as a separate category but a search of supplier records for the years in question revealed no payments to suppliers that are known to be public relations companies. A more comprehensive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13323]

Justine Greening: No central records are held relating to this and information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. Directorates have delegated training budgets that are used for the provision of external training and all training requests are subject to line manager approval.

Financial Services Authority: Fees and Charges

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) on the effects on small businesses of the FSA's fee increases; and if he will make a statement. [13371]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet senior members of the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Housing Benefit

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Table 2.1 of the Budget Red Book, HC 61, what methodology was used to calculate the figures for expenditure reductions by *(a)* limiting working age entitlements to reflect the size of family and *(b)* switching to Consumer Prices Index indexation for local housing allowance for 2013-14 and 2014-15. [13453]

Mr Gauke: The methodology used to derive policy costings for housing benefit reforms announced in the June Budget is set out in the "Budget 2010 policy costings" document at pages 39 to 41. The document is available on the Treasury website at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf.

Local Government Finance

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to publish a summary of the suggestions it has received from members of the public on reductions in expenditure by local authorities. [13363]

Danny Alexander: The Government received over 44,000 suggestions from members of the public through the spending challenge website, a number of which related to local authority spend. Members of the public were invited to review and rate the ideas received in order to help identify the most promising ones.

The Government have committed to reviewing the ideas with the most potential and will seek to highlight where ideas submitted by the public have been taken into account when the results of the spending review are announced on 20 October.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 19 July on a constituent, Mr N. Kelleway. [13853]

Justine Greening: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 2 September 2010 by Phil Pavitt, Director General, HMRC.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects his Department to respond to the letter of 7 July 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay on a constituent, Mr T. Sheppard. [14719]

Justine Greening: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Minimum Wage: Enforcement

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on enforcement of legislation governing the national minimum wage in each of the last five years. [13702]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs enforce the national minimum wage (NMW) on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The amount spent by HMRC on this in the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10 were as follows:

	£
2005-06	5,679,928
2006-07	5,566,013
2007-08	6,501,981
2008-09	7,495,445
2009-10[1]	7,725,000

[1] Plus additional funding of £180,000 from CLG's Migration Impact fund.

Personal Savings: Children

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of work undertaken by the Financial Services Authority to encourage young people to save. [13331]

Mr Hoban: The financial capability work of the Financial Services Authority was transferred to a new Consumer Financial Education Body (CFEB) in April 2010. Under the 2010 Financial Services Act, the CFEB has statutory objectives to improve understanding of financial matters among the general public and to enhance the ability of members of the public to manage their financial affairs. It does not currently have programmes specifically targeted at encouraging young people to save. The CFEB is an independent body which is responsible for measuring the effectiveness of its work.

Public Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to place a limit on non-cyclical structural borrowing *(a)* between 2010 and 2015 and *(b)* after 2015. [14130]

Justine Greening: The Budget announced the Government's forward-looking fiscal mandate to achieve cyclically-adjusted current balance by the end of the rolling, five-year forecast period.

At this time of rapidly rising debt, the Budget also announced that the fiscal mandate will be supplemented by a target for public sector net debt as a percentage of GDP to be falling in 2015-16.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the public sector pay freeze on the progression of public sector staff against incremental pay scales; and if he will make a statement. [7259]

Danny Alexander: The Budget announced that pay in public sector work forces would be frozen for two years from 2011-12, with exceptions for those earning £21,000 or less, who will see an increase of at least £250 in each of these years.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the public sector pay freeze for those earning over £21,000 per year will include local government craft workers whose rates of pay are governed by agreements of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Craft and Associated Employees; and whether the £250 annual payment for public sector workers earning under £21,000 per year will be paid to such workers. [13989]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The pay of local government craft workers is determined by the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Local Authority Craft and Associated Employees, made up of the Employers' Side and the Trade Union Side. Central Government have no role in respect of the JNC.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the £21,000 annual threshold his Department has set for the public sector pay freeze will be calculated on basic pay only. [13990]

Danny Alexander: The Budget announced a two-year pay freeze from 2011-12 for public sector work forces, except for those earning £21,000 or less, who will receive an increase of at least £250 per year. It is for employers to define annual salary as appropriate to their work forces.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the £21,000 annual salary threshold his Department has set for the public sector pay freeze will be calculated on basic pay only. [13993]

Danny Alexander: The Budget announced a two-year pay freeze from 2011-12 for public sector work forces, except for those earning £21,000 or less, who will receive an increase of at least £250 per year. It is for employers to define annual salary as appropriate to their work forces.

Public Sector: Procurement

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to promote the use of community benefit clauses in Government procurement contracts; whether there are targets for the use of such clauses; and if he will make a statement. [13435]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The primary purpose of public procurement is the acquisition of those goods, services and works necessary for public sector organisations to carry out their policy responsibilities, to appropriate standards of quality and value for money.

Public sector organisations are free to use community benefit clauses in their contracts, providing these represent value for money, are relevant to the overall requirement and are consistent with Government procurement rules and EU treaty principles of openness, non-discrimination and proportionality.

As decisions on when to use community benefit clauses have to be taken on a case-by-case basis, it would not be appropriate to set targets for such clauses.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Mr Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of research and development tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [14591]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget statement that the Government will consult with business in autumn 2010 to review the taxation of intellectual property, the support R&D tax credits provide for innovation and the proposals of the Dyson Review.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by HM Revenue and Customs on outsourcing to debt collection agencies to pursue tax debts in each of the last five years; and how much was recouped by such agencies in each of those years. [13338]

Mr Gauke: HMRC undertook a small-scale pilot exercise on the use of private sector debt collection agencies (DCAs) in 2009-10. It had not previously used such agencies. As announced in the Budget HMRC will, this year, be using debt collection agencies to collect £140 million of additional revenue from existing tax debts.

DCAs working on behalf of HMRC are paid on a "commission only" basis where payment is made as a percentage of recovered debt. Commission rates (and/or figures that would allow their calculation) are commercially sensitive and disclosure would be likely to compromise future procurement.

A copy of the pilot evaluation report is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/cap-cap-pilot.pdf

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what mechanism HM Revenue and Customs has put in place to monitor the conduct of its debt collection agency contractors; [13339]

(2) what safeguards HM Revenue and Customs has put in place to protect the personal information of taxpayers which has been shared with debt collection agency contractors. [13340]

Mr Gauke: HMRC successfully piloted using private sector debt collection agencies (DCAs) in 2009-10. It was subsequently announced in the June 2010 budget that HMRC would make further use of DCAs in 2010-11. The pilot demonstrated that DCAs can be used cost effectively and securely to collect debt on HMRC's behalf and without compromise to HMRC's high standards. A copy of the evaluation report is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/cap-cap-pilot.pdf

HMRC requires DCAs working on its behalf to comply with strict codes of conduct and the contracts require that they maintain HMRC standards in relation to customer service, data security and professionalism. A robust audit and assurance process is in place, which builds on the experience gained during the 2009-10 pilot.

Tax Havens

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions HM Revenue and Customs has had with offshore account holders on the process of depositing funds outside the UK. [13341]

Mr Gauke: To improve its understanding of how and why UK resident individuals open offshore bank accounts, in August HMRC wrote to 568 offshore account holders asking them to voluntarily complete a telephone questionnaire on the operation of their accounts. To date, 19 have been completed.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what details of offshore account holders HM Revenue and Customs has sought from UK banks in the last 12 months. [13342]

Mr Gauke: In August 2009, HM Revenue and Customs sought consent from the first-tier tribunal to issue 307 notices under schedule 36 FA 2008 requiring banks to provide information about their customers who have offshore accounts. Consent to issue the notices was given by the first-tier tribunal.

Taxation: Business

Laura Sandys: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made on the effects of business taxes on larger empty commercial properties on levels of investment in new commercial facilities. [13224]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not made any assessment of how business rates on larger empty properties have affected investment in new commercial facilities.

The current empty property rate regime was introduced in 2008 by the previous Government.

For 2010-11, all empty properties with rateable values up to £18,000 are exempt from business rates. 70% of properties have a rateable value below that threshold so, if empty, will pay no rates this year.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on the production and distribution of Tax Guides CDs to UK businesses in each year since 2005. [14024]

Mr Gauke: The costs are shown in the following table and include development, replication, packaging, and distribution.

	£
2005-06	2,284,083
2006-07	2,159,929
2007-08	2,182,472
2008-09	2,311,151
2009-10	1,465,928

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of processing subject access requests in connection with overpaid tax credits to date; and how many such requests there have been in each year since tax credits were introduced. [14833]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

The level of work involved in fulfilling a subject access request (SAR) can vary considerably therefore it is not possible for HM Revenue and Customs to calculate an average unit cost.

Requestors do not need to give a reason for making a SAR so the information on the number of requests relating to tax credits overpayments is not recorded.

EDUCATION

Financial Services: Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of financial literacy among school leavers; and if he will make a statement; [12077]

(2) if he will discuss with *(a)* the financial services sector and *(b)* other businesses their potential support for the provision of financial literacy teaching in (i) secondary and (ii) primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [12075]

Mr Gibb: The economic wellbeing and financial capability strand of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) was introduced in secondary schools in September 2008. In its inspection report on PSHE published in July, Ofsted found that students in schools that were successfully developing personal finance education showed a good understanding of personal finance, used financial terms correctly and were able to apply their knowledge in making financial decisions. This was based on evidence from inspections of economic understanding and financial capability in 53 secondary schools visited in 2008 and 2009.

The report can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Personal-social-health-and-economic-education-in-schools

GCE A-level

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of A-levels in *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* physics, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* modern foreign languages were awarded to candidates from (i) grammar schools, (ii) comprehensive schools, (iii) sixth-form colleges and (iv) independent schools in academic year 2008-09. [12635]

Mr Gibb: In the academic year 2008-09, the percentages of A-levels awarded to candidates are shown in the following table:

	Percentage of A-levels awarded to candidates			
Institution type	*Chemistry*	*Physics*	*Mathematics*	*Modern Foreign Languages*
Grammar schools	14.6	14.0	13.1	11.0
Comprehensive schools	39.4	41.5	40.3	34.3
Sixth-form colleges	16.9	14.3	16.8	13.6
Independent schools	21.8	23.0	21.6	34.1

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Mathematics: GCE AS-level

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of those pupils taking further mathematics at AS-level were studying at *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* independent and *(c)* grammar schools in 2009. [12634]

Mr Gibb: In 2009, of those pupils taking further mathematics at AS-level 44.5% were in comprehensive schools, 13.4% in independent schools and 11.9% in grammar schools.

Private Education

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children of compulsory school age in each local education authority area attended independent schools in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12638]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows the local authority area of the school attended. Some pupils will live in one local authority area and attend an independent school elsewhere.

Children of compulsory school age[1] [2] attending independent schools by local authority area of the school attended, January 2010 (final)—Government office region and local authority area in England

Children of compulsory school age[1] [2] attending independent schools by local authority area of the school attended, January 2010 (final)—Government office region and local authority area in England

	Independent schools	*All schools[4]*	*Percentage*
England[3]	426,510	6,595,070	6.5
North East[3]	9,390	315,630	3.0
Darlington	385	13,153	2.9
Durham	1,648	59,867	2.8
Gateshead	765	23,373	3.3
Hartlepool	9	12,282	0.1
Middlesbrough	58	17,911	0.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,344	31,893	10.5
North Tyneside	631	23,764	2.7
Northumberland	385	37,970	1.0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	18,254	0.0
South Tyneside	0	17,880	0.0
Stockton-on-Tees	1,372	24,927	5.5
Sunderland	795	34,442	2.3
North West[3]	38,390	896,860	4.3
Blackburn with Darwen	2,297	23,174	9.9
Blackpool	602	17,934	3.4
Bolton	2,312	39,385	5.9
Bury	1,563	25,289	6.2
Cheshire East	3,463	44,898	7.7
Cheshire West and Chester	3,267	43,030	7.6
Cumbria	2,205	60,754	3.6
Halton	33	15,689	0.2
Knowsley	0	17,878	0.0
Lancashire	4,486	145,117	3.1
Liverpool	1,280	54,389	2.4
Manchester	4,404	57,601	7.6
Oldham	1,003	34,425	2.9
Rochdale	336	28,002	1.2
Salford	2,198	27,592	8.0
Sefton	2,034	36,263	5.6
St Helens	509	21,945	2.3
Stockport	3,617	36,355	9.9
Tameside	130	29,360	0.4
Trafford	1,512	31,190	4.8
Warrington	23	26,203	0.1
Wigan	0	39,226	0.0
Wirral	1,113	41,165	2.7
Yorkshire and the Humber[3]	25,120	659,830	3.8
Barnsley	153	27,442	0.6
Bradford	3,327	72,914	4.6
Calderdale	1,015	29,200	3.5
Doncaster	470	37,782	1.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,461	41,185	3.5
Kingston upon Hull, City of	875	30,404	2.9
Kirklees	1,690	54,065	3.1
Leeds	3,733	89,907	4.2
North East Lincolnshire	251	20,005	1.3
North Lincolnshire	132	20,596	0.6
North Yorkshire	4,612	73,608	6.3
Rotherham	211	35,490	0.6
Sheffield	2,282	62,690	3.6
Wakefield	3,179	43,546	7.3
York	1,729	20,994	8.2
East Midlands[3]	24,130	562,630	4.3
Derby	892	32,580	2.7
Derbyshire	3,438	93,166	3.7
Leicester	1,676	40,826	4.1
Leicestershire	5,064	83,297	6.1
Lincolnshire	3,275	88,249	3.7
Northamptonshire	4,291	90,927	4.7
Nottingham	2,402	33,138	7.2
Nottinghamshire	1,789	94,677	1.9
Rutland	1,299	5,767	22.5
West Midlands[3]	31,600	724,370	4.4
Birmingham	6,016	149,932	4.0
Coventry	2,211	41,458	5.3
Dudley	223	40,889	0.5
Herefordshire	1,367	21,362	6.4
Sandwell	25	40,767	0.1
Shropshire	3,680	36,482	10.1
Solihull	1,466	31,902	4.6
Staffordshire	3,489	103,228	3.4
Stoke-on-Trent	118	28,645	0.4
Telford and Wrekin	611	23,036	2.7
Walsall	1,075	38,214	2.8
Warwickshire	4,457	67,719	6.6
Wolverhampton	1,183	30,886	3.8
Worcestershire	5,680	69,850	8.1
East of England[3]	49,160	741,660	6.6
Bedford	3,516	23,585	14.9
Central Bedfordshire	264	31,643	0.8
Cambridgeshire	6,313	73,038	8.6
Essex	9,285	176,505	5.3
Hertfordshire	16,866	155,367	10.9
Luton	782	28,864	2.7
Norfolk	4,825	97,690	4.9
Peterborough	301	24,995	1.2
Southend-on-Sea	945	22,952	4.1
Suffolk	6,066	86,894	7.0
Thurrock	0	20,127	0.0
London[3]	98,470	978,720	10.1
Inner London[3]	48,890	349,260	14.0
Camden	5,424	21,919	24.7
City of London	1,531	1,706	89.7
Hackney	5,280	26,874	19.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,571	17,954	25.5
Haringey	1,872	29,744	6.3
Islington	451	18,933	2.4

Children of compulsory school age[1] [2] attending independent schools by local authority area of the school attended, January 2010 (final)—Government office region and local authority area in England

	Independent schools	All schools[3]	Percentage
Kensington and Chelsea	8,485	17,058	49.7
Lambeth	1,173	26,443	4.4
Lewisham	1,480	30,272	4.9
Newham	885	41,988	2.1
Southwark	3,789	33,015	11.5
Tower Hamlets	1,302	31,866	4.1
Wandsworth	7,237	30,143	24.0
Westminster	5,411	21,343	25.4
Outer London[2]	49,580	629,460	7.9
Barking and Dagenham	10	26,065	0.0
Barnet	4,682	42,579	11.0
Bexley	444	33,556	1.3
Brent	1,723	35,095	4.9
Bromley	3,339	40,840	8.2
Croydon	5,164	47,185	10.9
Ealing	3,986	39,666	10.0
Enfield	1,256	42,550	3.0
Greenwich	2,174	29,578	7.4
Harrow	3,388	28,622	11.8
Havering	636	31,961	2.0
Hillingdon	2,913	37,171	7.8
Hounslow	928	29,149	3.2
Kingston upon Thames	2,903	19,881	14.6
Merton	2,910	22,236	13.1
Redbridge	3,108	39,839	7.8
Richmond upon Thames	7,324	25,068	29.2
Sutton	1,297	26,412	4.9
Waltham Forest	1,391	32,008	4.3
South East[2]	109,140	1,082,600	10.1
Bracknell Forest	2,153	14,809	14.5
Brighton and Hove	2,904	28,738	10.1
Buckinghamshire	6,669	67,834	9.8
East Sussex	4,914	61,053	8.0
Hampshire	13,089	163,413	8.0
Isle of Wight	685	15,957	4.3
Kent	13,716	188,557	7.3
Medway	1,046	35,553	2.9
Milton Keynes	659	32,695	2.0
Oxfordshire	11,605	81,576	14.2
Portsmouth	2,587	23,198	11.2
Reading	2,146	15,880	13.5
Slough	437	18,577	2.4
Southampton	1,386	25,203	5.5
Surrey	27,705	147,336	18.8
West Berkshire	2,357	22,692	10.4
West Sussex	8,848	98,134	9.0
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,082	19,913	20.5
Wokingham	2,156	21,477	10.0
South West[2]	41,110	632,780	6.5
Bath and North East Somerset	3,298	23,976	13.8
Bournemouth	1,140	18,399	6.2
Bristol, City of	4,623	43,687	10.6
Cornwall	1,913	61,920	3.1
Devon	5,736	86,940	6.6
Dorset	4,202	49,728	8.4
Gloucestershire	5,889	75,814	7.8
Isles of Scilly	0	232	0.0
North Somerset	773	24,893	3.1
Plymouth	690	30,791	2.2
Poole	534	16,113	3.3
Somerset	6,788	65,999	10.3
South Gloucestershire	297	33,687	0.9
Swindon	52	25,628	0.2
Torbay	419	15,433	2.7
Wiltshire	4,756	59,542	8.0

[1] Excludes dual registrations. Pupils of compulsory school age only (aged 5 to 15 at the start of the school year). In PRUs also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[2] National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

[3] Includes local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies, maintained and non-maintained special schools, general hospital schools, PRUs and independent schools.

Source:
School Census.

Schools: Standards

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools rated (i) good and (ii) satisfactory at their most recent Ofsted inspection were rated outstanding at the preceding inspection. [9399]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Lorraine Langham, dated 9 August 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for response. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector is currently on leave and I am deputising for her in her absence.

The latest period for which published figures about maintained school section 5 inspection outcomes are available is the spring term of 2009/10. This answer, therefore, takes into account those primary and secondary schools (including academies and city technology colleges) which were open on 21 April 2010 and had received an inspection on or before 31 March 2010.

Under the school inspection frameworks used between January 2000 and August 2005 (commonly known as section 10), the school's overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: 'excellent', 'very good', 'good', 'satisfactory', 'unsatisfactory', 'poor' and 'very poor'. Since September 2005, the overall effectiveness judgement has been made under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5) using a four point scale: 'outstanding', 'good', 'satisfactory' and 'inadequate'.

Given the differences in the measurement of overall effectiveness between the frameworks, it is not possible to operate a simple, read-across approach between section 10 and section 5 inspection frameworks.

As the question refers to those schools which were found to be outstanding, this answer only looks at those inspections that took place under section 5 (from September 2005). It does not include those schools currently 'good' or 'satisfactory' under section 5, with previous inspection judgements under the previous section 10 framework.

Information on which schools were open on 21 April 2010 has been taken from the Department for Education's Edubase system. Information regarding section 5 inspections was taken from archived information on Ofsted's systems.

Of the 7,545 primary schools inspected more than once under section 5, there were 162 primary schools rated 'good' where their previous section 5 inspection was also rated 'outstanding'.

Of the 1,611 secondary schools inspected more than once under section 5, there were 25 secondary schools rated 'good' where their previous section 5 inspection was also rated 'outstanding'.

Of the 7,545 primary schools inspected more than once under section 5, there were 36 primary schools rated 'satisfactory' where their previous section 5 inspection was also rated 'outstanding'.

Of the 1,611 secondary schools inspected more than once under section 5, there were two secondary schools rated 'satisfactory' where their previous section 5 inspection was also rated 'outstanding'.

Tables 1 and 2 below contain the information requested.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table 1: Secondary schools and primary schools rated "good" in their most recent Ofsted inspection and rated "outstanding" in their previous inspection and the proportion of the total numbers they represent

	Open schools at 21 April 2010 and inspected on or before 31 March 2010	Schools inspected more than once under section 5	Currently graded good for inspections 31 March 2010 and inspected more than once	With a previous consecutive section 5 inspection graded outstanding	Total as a proportion of all schools currently graded good and inspected more than once under section 5 (percentage)	Total as a proportion of all schools inspected more than once under section 5 (percentage)
Secondary[1]	3,189	1,611	611	25	4	2
Primary	16,905	7,545	3,637	162	4	2
Total	20,094	9,156	4,248	187	4	2

Table 2: Secondary schools and primary schools rated "satisfactory" in their most recent Ofsted inspection and rated "outstanding" in their previous inspection and the proportion of the total numbers they represent

	Open schools at 21 April 2010 and inspected on or before 31 March 2010	Schools inspected more than once under section 5	Currently graded satisfactory for inspections 31 March 2010 and inspected more than once	With a previous consecutive section 5 inspection graded outstanding	Total as a proportion of all schools currently graded satisfactory and inspected more than once under section 5 (percentage)	Total as a proportion of all schools inspected more than once under section 5 (percentage)
Secondary[1]	3,189	1,611	613	2	0	0
Primary	16,905	7,545	2,558	36	1	0
Total	20,094	9,156	3,171	38	1	0

[1] Secondary schools include secondary, academy and city technology colleges

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of each written representation he has received from the devolved Administrations on the proposed alternative vote referendum. [13709]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided to the hon. Members for Caerphilly (Mr David) and Wyre and Preston North (Mr Wallace) on 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 647W.

Distribution of Seats

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what options for the number of seats in the House of Commons he considered before deciding to propose 600 seats as the size of the House. [14831]

Mr Harper: The Conservative and Liberal Democrat manifestos both proposed a reduction in size of the House of Commons, to 585 and 500 seats respectively (the latter in the context of the introduction of the single transferable vote). The coalition agreement announced that legislation would be introduced "to provide for the creation of fewer and more equally sized constituencies". Ultimately it is a matter of judgment as to the most suitable size of the House, and Ministers decided that a modest reduction to 600 seats would be appropriate, mindful that hon. Members must be able to serve their constituents and that the House must be of sufficient size to be able to carry out its functions effectively. Under the Government's proposals, the 1 December 2009 register suggests the electoral quota for the UK would be around 76,000. 218 of the existing constituencies are already within 5% either side of 76,000, so the impact of our proposals will see constituencies of a size well within existing norms.

Domestic Visits

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* transport, *(b)* venue and accommodation, *(c)* printed materials, including backdrops, *(d)* security, *(e)* staffing, *(f)* filming and photography and *(g)* other costs of each public meeting he has held since his appointment; [13266]

(2) what vetting his Office undertakes of people attending public meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister. [13267]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since my appointment as Deputy Prime Minister I have held open public meetings in Abingdon (24 July 2010), Newcastle (19 August 2010), Bristol (21 August 2010) and Croydon (27 August 2010) to provide members of the public with an opportunity to raise local, regional or national issues with me directly. Costs have been minimised as far as possible. Transport and accommodation have been arranged in accordance with ministerial and civil service guidelines. Venues have been sourced at minimal cost: £52 for Abingdon and free of charge in Newcastle, Bristol and Croydon. Staffing, and filming and photography for Government use are all part of the Cabinet Office communications support function and do not incur additional costs. Branding for the events is generic and reused at each event, with an initial cost of £680 for printing. It is Government policy not to comment on security arrangements.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers accompanied him on each public meeting since his appointment. [13268]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My public meetings are organised and supported by Cabinet Office civil servants. Support will vary according to the individual visit. Numbers for the meetings held are as follows:

		Number	
	Date	*Civil servants*	*Special advisors*
Abingdon	24 July 2010	5	0
Newcastle	19 August 2010	6	1
Bristol	21 August 2010	3	0
Croydon	27 August 2010	5	0

Electoral Systems

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has made an assessment of the opinions of residents of *(a)* Argyll and Bute and *(b)* other constituencies on exemptions from his proposed requirement for electoral equality. [14832]

Mr Harper: No such assessment has been made. The principle of greater fairness and equality in the size of constituencies was set out in the coalition programme for government and is a cornerstone of the Bill. The Government consider it right to allow only two named exceptions to what is intended to be a clear principle. There will be debate in the House, and consultation by the Boundary Commissions once they have published their recommendations. The Bill increases the time period during which representations may be made from four to 12 weeks.

Electoral Systems: Isle of Wight

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make an estimate of the likely effect on the UK quota of the exemption of the Isle of Wight from his proposed requirement for electoral equality. [14830]

Mr Harper: If a UK electoral quota for 598 seats is calculated using the 1 December 2009 electorate, for illustrative purposes, a quota of 75,862 is reached once the electorates of the preserved constituencies of Orkney and Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar are removed. If, in addition, the electorate of the Isle of Wight were to be removed from the UK calculation, the quota (for 597 seats) would be 75,805.

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he took into account in formulating the proposed rule 4 in clause 9 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill. [14829]

Mr Harper: In drafting the Bill, Ministers considered advice from officials and parliamentary counsel, and officials discussed the technical impact of the clauses with the Secretariats of the four Boundary Commissions.

Voting Systems: Referendums

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the Government will spend promoting their planned referendum on the alternative vote system. [12194]

Mr Harper: There are clear restrictions on Government activity around referendums, and the Government do not plan to spend any money specifically on promoting the referendum on the alternative vote. The Electoral Commission, under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act, will give positive consideration to taking forward public awareness activity.

Voting Systems: Reform

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of spoilt ballot papers of a move to *(a)* an alternative vote, *(b)* a single transferable vote and *(c)* other electoral systems. [12071]

Mr Harper: The Government have made no such estimate.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Bank

James Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether funds from the Big Society Bank will be available to social enterprises offering job placement and training schemes; [12629]

(2) at what stage funds from the Big Society Bank will be available to local communities in addition to the four recently announced, with particular reference to Halesowen and Rowley Regis. [12630]

Mr Hurd: The Big Society Bank will be a wholesale institution, and so its funds will be used to assist or enable other organisations to give financial or other support to social enterprises, charities and voluntary and community organisations. This means it may invest in social enterprises and community groups, including those offering job placements and training schemes in Halesowen and Rowley Regis, but through social investment intermediaries rather than directly.

Our aim is to establish the Big Society Bank by April 2011. It will be accessible to relevant intermediary organisations across the country, not just in the four Vanguard Communities.

Business

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five-year survival rate of small businesses was in *(a)* North Swindon constituency and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [13333]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the five year survival rate of small businesses was in (a) North Swindon constituency and (b) England in the latest period for which figures are available. (13333)

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on small enterprise five year survival in North Swindon parliamentary constituency and England.

The count of births in 2003 and the count and percentage of five year survival for enterprises with less than 50 employment

Geography	2003 births	5 year survival	5 year percentage
England	235,800	110,360	46.8
North Swindon	335	165	49.3

Note:

A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment.

Business: North Swindon

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses in North Swindon constituency had a turnover of *(a)* under £100,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 in the latest year for which figures are available. [13334]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses in North Swindon constituency had a turnover of (a) under £100,000 and (b) over £100,000 in the latest year for which figures are available. [13334]

Annual statistics on business counts are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Data are for enterprises in the constituency of North Swindon with less than 50 employment and for the year 2009.

Count of VAT and/or PAYE-based enterprises with less than 50 employment for the constituency of North Swindon in 2009

	Turnover size
£0-£99,000	1,165
£100,000+	1,330

Note:

A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses *(a)* started up and *(b)* ceased to exist in North Swindon constituency in each year since 1997. [13335]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses (a) started up and (b) ceased to exist in North Swindon constituency in each year since 1997. [13335].

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and actives are available for 2002 onwards from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, on enterprise births and deaths in North Swindon for the years 2002 to 2008.

Enterprise births and deaths for the constituency of North Swindon, 2002-08

		Number
	Births	Deaths
2002	310	[1]
2003	335	[1]
2004	355	[1]
2005	315	240
2006	325	285
2007	345	230
2008	395	230

[1] Not available.

Civil Servants: Conditions of Employment

Mr Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to ensure that terms and conditions of employment of low-paid civil servants are not affected by changes to civil service employment contracts. [13184]

Mr Maude: Whenever changes to terms and conditions are being considered we consider very carefully how these might impact on all civil servants, including the low paid. Management structures and working practices, including well established processes of consultation and negotiation, are in place to represent the interests of all civil servants in that regard.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what legal advice his Department obtained before the introduction of the Superannuation Bill; and what discussions he and his officials had with civil service unions on the future of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [14086]

Mr Maude: The issues of whether legal advice has been taken, and what that legal advice is, are privileged. The Government do not disclose the legal advice that they have taken.

My officials and I have undertaken several discussions with the civil service unions on reform of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. I met with Paul Noon, chair of the Council of Civil Service Unions on 13 July and I met with him and the members of the CCSU again on 9 September. Between those dates my officials have conducted a large number of meetings with representatives from the unions in order to develop a framework for a new compensation scheme.

It remains my desire to reach an agreement with the unions on a new scheme before the Superannuation Bill is passed.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13031]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office's annual resource accounts from 1999-2000 to 2009-10 years, available in the House of Commons Library, provide combined total amounts for expenditure on travel, subsistence and hospitality. Further information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13271]

Mr Maude: The percentage of compliant invoices from all suppliers which were paid within 10 days of receipt is as follows:

	Percentage within 10 days
July 2010	95.4
August 2010	95.5

This response excludes the Constitution Group function which was recently transferred to Cabinet Office from the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much office space per employee his Department occupied in each year since 1997. [12993]

Mr Maude: Information on space usage is published in the annual 'State of the Estate' report. This is available at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/high_performing_property_the_state_of_the_estate.asp

A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [12454]

Mr Maude: The amount spent on external consultancy and advice by the Cabinet Office in each financial year since 2005-06 is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	50.5
2006-07	21.4
2007-08	19.1
2008-09	19.3
2009-10	18.0

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many investigations following the unauthorised disclosure of information from his Department there have been in the last 12 months. [12869]

Mr Maude: In the last 12 months my Department has been involved with investigating one suspected unauthorised disclosure of information.

In line with exemptions 1(a) and 7(b) set out in Part II of the "Code of Practice on Access to Government Information", it has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on the outcome of such inquiries in order to safeguard security and investigative arrangements.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12715]

Mr Maude: No IT contracts awarded by the Cabinet Office have so far been abandoned since the formation of the new Government.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each region of England was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12455]

Mr Maude: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department's annual expenditure on vehicles purchased via the Department's travel contracts for the last three financial years is detailed as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2007-08	47,274
2008-09	27,626
2009-10	17,834

Figures for any vehicle expenditure that may have been purchased by officials using the Government Procurement Card or claimed back on expenses are not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

(b) (i) There has been no annual expenditure on vehicles in each of the last three financial years by the Cabinet Office's non-departmental public bodies.

(b) (ii) There has been no annual expenditure on vehicles in each of the last three financial years by the Cabinet Office's Executive agency.

It is not possible to provide figures on planned expenditure for financial year 2010-11 as our vehicle expenditure is demand driven. It is Cabinet Office policy to reduce the amount of travel by questioning the need to travel and make use of alternative provisions such as video conferencing.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each region of England in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12453]

Mr Maude: The cost of pension contributions incurred by the Cabinet Office in each of the last three financial years is published in the Cabinet Office resource accounts which are available on the Cabinet Office website at the following address

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

and detailed in the following table:

Financial year	*Cost of pension contribution (£000)*
2007-08	11,803
2008-09	11,675
2009-10	11,993

The cost of planned expenditure for 2010-11 is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12353]

Mr Maude: Rent paid by the Cabinet Office in the last five years is as follows:

Expenditure

£

	Total rent expenditure	*London-England (Region)*	*Warrington (Cheshire Region) England*	*Basingstoke (Hampshire Region) England*
2005-06	5,880,794	5,704,544	0	176,250
2006-07	7,295,818	6,894,488	225,081	176,250
2007-08	6,470,265	5,984,751	309,264	176,250
2008-09	4,481,863	4,305,613	0	176,250
2009-10	4,319,836	3,983,816	25,283	310,738

Over the last five years in question, the Cabinet Office has paid rent only in London, Warrington and Basingstoke.

Lone Parents: Employment

Caroline Flint: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents with children aged between *(a)* five to 10 and *(b)* 11 to 16 years have entered employment in (i) Don Valley constituency, (ii) Doncaster and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [12699]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many lone parents with children aged between (a) five to 10 and (b) 11 to 16 years have entered employment in (i) Don Valley constituency, (ii) Doncaster and (iii) England in each of the last five years. 12699.

Information about the number of parents entering employment is not available. However, the attached table shows the number of parents in employment for January to December 2004 to 2008, using the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets.

The sample of the APS is not large enough to provide estimates for Doncaster local authority or Don Valley parliamentary constituency because of insufficient sample sizes.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table 1: Lone parents[1] in employment with children[2] aged (a) 5-10 years and (b) 11-16 years, England

Thousand

	Children aged 5-10			*Children aged 11-16*		
	Estimate	*Lower bound[3]*	*Upper bound[3]*	*Estimate*	*Lower bound[3]*	*Upper bound[3]*
January to December 2004	286	271	300	304	289	319
January to December 2005	292	278	306	322	306	337
January to December 2006	285	271	300	329	312	345
January to December 2007	267	253	281	337	320	353
January to December 2008	280	266	295	337	321	353

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Dependent children are under 16 and those aged 16 to 18 who are never-married and in full-time education.

[3] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:

APS household dataset

NDPBs

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public bodies there were in England *(a)* in 1979, *(b)* in 1997 and *(c)* on the latest date for which information is available. [12510]

Mr Maude: Figures for the number of non-departmental public bodies have been published annually by Cabinet Office in "Public Bodies" since 1980. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House. Recent editions are also available at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/ndpb

Teenage Pregnancy: Rhondda Cynon Taff

Chris Bryant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many live births per thousand teenage girls there were in Rhondda constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12589]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many live births per thousand teenage girls there were in Rhondda constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. (012589)

There were 44.1 live births to women aged under 20 per thousand women aged 15-19 in Rhondda parliamentary constituency in 2008[1] (the most recent year available).

[1] Based on usual residence of the mother and date of occurrence of the birth.

Unemployed People: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children were living in workless households in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010. [12541]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. .

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children were living in workless households in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010. (12541)

The requested information is not available. It is not possible to provide estimates for Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency because of insufficient sample sizes.

Voluntary Organisations: Vetting

David Mowat: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to ensure that adult volunteers are not deterred from working with children by criminal record checking procedures; and if he will make a statement. [12498]

Mr Hurd: The Government have committed to reviewing the criminal records regime to scale it back to common sense levels. The terms of reference of this review will be published in due course. The Office for Civil Society will be working closely with the Home Office on this review to ensure that the impact on volunteering is taken into account.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12811]

Mr Maude: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost. Any expenditure on wine is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(b)* Medway have received employment and support allowance in each of the last five years; [15094]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(b)* Medway have received incapacity benefit in each of the last five years; [15095]

(3) how many people in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(b)* Medway have received disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [15096]

Maria Miller: The information can be found in the following tables.

Chatham and Aylesford constituency: February 2006-09 (May 2005 boundaries) and February 2010 (May 2010 boundaries[1])

	February 2006	*February 2007*	*February 2008*	*February 2009*	*February 2010*
Employment and support allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	300	790
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	3,160	3,150	3,290	3,220	2,910
Disability living allowance	3,640	3,760	3,980	4,350	4,600

Medway local authority: February 2006-10

	February 2006	*February 2007*	*February 2008*	*February 2009*	*February 2010*
Employment and Support Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	730	2,020

Medway local authority: February 2006-10

	February 2006	*February 2007*	*February 2008*	*February 2009*	*February 2010*
Incapacity Benefit/ Severe Disablement Allowance	8,900	8,830	9,190	8,770	7,680
Disability Living Allowance	9,840	10,290	10,870	11,730	12,560

n/a = Not available.

[1] Constituencies used for February 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.
3. Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance volumes include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contribution conditions but receive a national insurance credit.
4. Volumes for disability living allowance show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Child Support Agency

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many cases the Child Support Agency recorded intercession by an hon. Member in 2009-10. [14913]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many cases the Child Support Agency recorded intercession by an hon. Member in 2009-10. [14913]

We tried to contact your office to clarify your request but we were advised that you were unavailable for most of the day so we have interpreted the question as being the volume of correspondence received by the Commission from MPs in 2009-10.

In the year to March 2010 the Commission received 16,500 pieces of correspondence from MPs. This includes both case-specific and general correspondence received in writing and through the MP hotline. Multiple correspondence may be received for a single complaint.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* total cost was to his Department of processing new claims for employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [13892]

Maria Miller: Published information and statistics for ESA claims and work capability assessments are available on the Department's website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/

The latest audited and publicly available financial information for Jobcentre Plus is in the annual report and accounts for 2009-10. These cover the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

The average and total costs to Jobcentre Plus of processing new claims for ESA in 2009-10 are shown in the following table:

ESA new claims, 2009-10

Total cost (£ million)	28
Average cost (£)	41

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management system.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* total cost was to his Department of work reconsidering claims for employment and support allowance that were initially rejected by it in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [13893]

Maria Miller: It is not possible to provide the costs specifically for reconsideration of the decisions made on these claims as this level of information is not captured.

Published information and statistics for ESA claims and work capability assessments are available on the Department's website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* total cost to his Department of cases involving appeals against its decisions to refuse claims for employment and support allowance was in the latest period for which figures are available. [13894]

Maria Miller: Published information and statistics for ESA claims and work capability assessments are available on the Department's website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/

Jobcentre Plus, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, is responsible for an element of the ESA appeal process. The rest is handled by the Tribunal Service.

The latest audited and publicly available financial information for Jobcentre Plus is in the annual report and accounts for 2009-10. These cover the period from

1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. Jobcentre Plus does not hold information on the costs incurred by the Tribunal Service therefore we cannot provide the total cost of an appeal. However, the average and total costs to Jobcentre Plus of processing an ESA appeal in 2009-10 are shown in the following table.

2009-10	*ESA appeals*
Total cost (£ million)	6
Average cost (£)	50

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management system.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the time taken was from submission of an appeal against a failed employment and support allowance claim to its decision in the latest period for which figures are available. [13840]

Maria Miller: Departmental data sources allow us to measure the time from the date the original decision was made by Jobcentre Plus to the date of the appeal hearing. Our latest estimates are that the average time from the original decision to the appeal hearing with the Tribunals Service is six months.

Customers have up to one month to appeal a decision. This period is included in the six month figure.

Average times are subject to change due to the volume of appeals awaiting a hearing.

Flexible Working

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to extend parental rights in the workplace in the form of flexible hour agreements for those parents with children under the age of 16 years. [14721]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to extending the right to request flexible working to all employees, consulting with business on how best to do so. Parents of children under 17, or under 18 if the child is disabled, as well as carers of certain adults, already have the right to request flexible working, to help them balance their work and caring responsibilities. Extending this right to all employees will encourage more employees and employers to benefit from the flexible working, and make making a request more commonplace, removing the stigma attached to making a request.

I will launch a consultation on the extension to the right to request flexible working later in the year.

Housing Benefit

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receive housing benefit of more than £400 a week at the five-bedroom rate. [13455]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit Proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be Introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July 2010. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the letter to the hon. Member for Hampstead and Kilburn from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 16 August 2010, paragraph 5, on proposed changes to housing benefit, when he expects to publish the economic impact assessment; and if he will make a statement. [13565]

Steve Webb: The Department will publish a full impact assessment for the 2011-12 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements when it lays the relevant legislation in November 2010.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will conduct an impact assessment on the proposed changes to housing benefit and local housing allowance on the basis of socio-economic class. [14975]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" and a separate equality impact assessment on 23 July. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

The Department will publish a full impact assessment for the 2011-12 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements when it lays the relevant legislation in November 2010.

There are no plans to assess the impacts of the proposed changes to housing benefit on the basis of socio-economic class.

Housing Benefit: Glasgow

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* housing associations in Glasgow and *(b)* tenants in social sector housing in Glasgow on the Government's proposals on housing benefit. [14139]

Steve Webb: We have had preliminary discussions with the Scottish Government and key stakeholders on the changes to housing benefit affecting the social rented sector and will publish our proposals and associated impact assessments in due course.

Housing Benefit: Impact Assessments

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to publish an impact assessment on proposed reductions in housing benefit; and what impacts will be assessed. [13864]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit Proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be Introduced in 2011-12" and a separate equality impact assessment on 23 July. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

The Department will publish a full impact assessment for the 2011-12 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements when it lays the relevant legislation in November 2010.

Housing Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Sunderland in receipt of housing benefit have also been receiving jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months at the latest date for which figures are available. [14026]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

At present, the management information needed to estimate durations on housing benefit has not been sufficiently quality assured; and, while information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance, the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is not available.

Housing benefit case load and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk

Housing Benefit: Local Housing Allowance

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in the London Borough of *(a)* Camden and *(b)* Brent he estimates will move home as a result of the proposed (i) housing benefit caps and (ii) reductions in the level of local housing allowance; [13563]

(2) with reference to the letter to the hon. Member for Hampstead and Kilburn from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 16 August 2010, which outer London boroughs may have an increased number of new housing benefit customers as a result of the proposed changes in housing benefit and local housing allowance; and what estimate he has made of the likely increase in numbers of claimants in those boroughs. [13564]

Steve Webb: The Department has published estimates of the number of households that will be affected by the changes we are making to local housing allowance rates in 2011-12. However, it is not possible to estimate the number of households that will move as a consequence of the changes.

A copy of the document "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £250 per week for a one bedroom property, *(b)* £290 per week for a two bedroom property, *(c)* £340 per week for a three bedroom property and *(d)* £400 per week for a four bedroom property in (i) Scotland, (ii) Glasgow and (iii) Glasgow East constituency. [14302]

Steve Webb: This information is not available at constituency level.

The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July 2010, which includes analysis at local authority and regional level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £250 per week for a one bedroom property, *(b)* £290 per week for a two bedroom property, *(c)* £340 per week for a three bedroom property and *(d)* £400 per week for a four bedroom property in (i) Scotland, (ii) Glasgow and (iii) Glasgow North West constituency. [15112]

Steve Webb: This information is not available at constituency level.

The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July 2010, which includes analysis at local authority and regional level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Warwickshire

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Warwickshire county, *(b)* North Warwickshire borough and *(c)* Nuneaton and Bedworth borough were in receipt of housing benefit of more than £400 a month in the latest period for which figures are available. [14357]

Steve Webb: At May 2010, for housing benefit claims assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements, our records show that:

(a) In Warwickshire county there were 3,560 households receiving over £400 per month;

(b) In North Warwickshire borough council there were 370 households receiving over £400 per month;

(c) In Nuneaton and Bedworth borough council there were 970 households receiving over £400 per month.

The coalition Government emergency Budget announced a cap on the local housing allowance rates of £400 per week (around £1,733 per month). There are no households in Warwickshire county in receipt of housing benefit of over £400 per week.

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract for May 2010.

Housing Benefit: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Wolverhampton North East constituency and *(b)* Wolverhampton who would be affected by implementation of proposed changes to housing benefit; and whether he has made an estimate of the average change in housing benefit payments to such people under his Department's proposals. [13369]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at constituency level.

The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit Proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be Introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July, which includes analysis at local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Local Housing Allowance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of households affected by the reductions to local housing allowance that will receive additional discretionary housing payments from 2011-12. [13454]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July, which includes analysis at local authority and regional level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

While the Department makes a contribution to local authorities' discretionary housing payment budgets, the decision on whether to award a payment in an individual case is a matter for the local authority.

Local Housing Allowance: Hyndburn

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Hyndburn will be affected by the changes in calculating local housing allowance using the 30th percentile rent instead of the median. [13736]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit Proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be Introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July 2010, which includes analysis at local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Low Incomes: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households with below average income there were in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2005. [11375]

Steve Webb: Analysis of the UK income distribution is published in the households below average income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for east of England are set out in the following table.

Table 1: Number of households in the eastern Government office region that had incomes Below the median income from 2005

Number (million)

Period	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
2005-06 to 2007-08	1.1	1.1
2006-07 to 2008-09	1.1	1.1

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income data which are sourced from the Family Resources Survey. Both of these are available in the Library.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for household below average income figures is single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the HBAI series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost
7. Numbers of households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 households.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Maternity Benefits: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in Wolverhampton North East constituency in 2009-10. [13379]

Steve Webb: A total of 274,000 Sure Start maternity grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, around 143,000.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government office region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by constituency.

Note:

Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source for total number of awards:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Parental Leave

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to make maternity and paternity leave more flexible. [14822]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to encouraging shared parenting from the earliest stage of pregnancy—including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave. The current maternity and paternity leave system favours mothers, who receive 52 weeks leave and 39 weeks pay. Fathers have only two weeks paid leave reserved for them.

I will launch a consultation on shared parental leave later in the year—including how to give more flexibility to parents.

Pensioners: Cost of Living

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice his Department has received from the Office for National Statistics on use of the *(a)* consumer prices index and *(b)* retail prices index to measure changes to the cost of living of pensioners. [15042]

Steve Webb: The Department made use of a range of information provided by the Office for National Statistics regarding price inflation indices, including the Consumer Prices Index Technical Manual 2010 and other related documents.

Pensioners: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wolverhampton North East constituency are over state retirement pension age; and how many receive *(a)* basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [13366]

Steve Webb: The information requested for those in Wolverhampton North East constituency who are over state pension age is not available. However, the document "Caseloads for selected benefits by 2010 Parliamentary Constituencies, February 2010" is available in the Library and includes figures for pension credit and state pension.

Pensions: Uprating

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what effect the inclusion of housing costs in the consumer prices index will have on the methodology used by his Department to up-rate pensions payments. [15041]

Steve Webb: In his letter to the Governor of the Bank of England of 18 May 2010, the Chancellor of the Exchequer expressed interest in the inclusion of housing costs in the CPI measure used by the Bank of England as their inflation target. Whether and how housing costs will be included in CPI is still under consideration. We will consider what effect any such measure would have, if any, once further information is available.

Poverty: Children

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs in Gateshead constituency in each year since 2000. [13383]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government Office Region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for the North East of England are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income for the North East of England, before housing costs and after housing costs

Period	*Before housing costs*		*After housing costs*	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.2	32	0.2	36
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.2	30	0.2	33
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2	31	0.2	34
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2	28	0.2	32
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	28	0.2	33
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.1	28	0.2	33
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.1	28	0.2	34

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to meet the targets for reducing child poverty included in the Child Poverty Act 2010. [13541]

Maria Miller: Section 14 of the coalition document confirms the Government's commitment to ending child poverty in the UK. We believe that the best way to tackle this issue is to address the root causes of poverty, because it is only by doing this that we can improve outcomes for children in the most effective way. By spring next year we will consult on and publish a robust, sustainable strategy to end child poverty by 2020 as required by the Child Poverty Act.

Social Security Benefits

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice he has received on the legality of using the consumer prices index as the measure of the general level of prices under section 150 (2) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. [15040]

Steve Webb: Advice was taken on the legality of using the consumer prices index as the measure of the general level of prices, in the context of the Secretary of State's statutory duty under section 150 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. As with all legal advice to the Government, this is confidential and covered by legal professional privilege, and so will not be divulged.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of first-tier appeal hearings on benefit decisions between April 2009 and March 2010. [13501]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The total cost for running the first-tier tribunal—social security and child support in 2009-10, including overheads, was £78,216,000.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of *(a)* employment and support allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* disability living allowance who were found to be capable of work appealed against that decision in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many in each case had their appeal granted. [13712]

Maria Miller: Of people who made a claim for ESA between October 2008 and June 2009 and who were found fit for work at assessment, 52,800 (32%) have had an appeal heard by Tribunals Service to date. The appeal was granted for 31,600 (40%) of these cases.

The Department does not have figures for the number of cases appealed but not yet heard by the Tribunal Service. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard, particularly for the most recent cohorts of ESA claims. These figures should continue to be treated as emerging findings and not final at this stage.

The Department publishes tables showing the number of appeals and decisions relating to ESA claims on our website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_27072010.pdf

The equivalent information for incapacity benefit appeals is not available.

Disability living allowance is not a work-related benefit and is not awarded on the basis of work-related capability. With regard to all appeals against a decision not to award DLA, 21,000 appeals were granted in the customer's favour in 2009-10.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what target timescale his Department has set for processing decisions on benefit entitlements for those claiming *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance. [13699]

Maria Miller: The Department's targets for disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) new claims are called average actual clearance times (AACT). They measure the average number of working days taken to process new claims within the reporting year and are set each financial year.

The target timescales for processing decisions are shown in the following tables:

(a) The AACT target and performance achieved for DLA new claims from 2007-08 to August 2010

	Days	
	Target	*Annual performance*
2007-08 year end	38	36.0
2008-09 year end	38	29.8
2009-10 year end	38	33.8
2010-10 August	37.7	[1]33.3

(b) The AACT target and performance achieved for AA new claims from 2007-08 to August 2010

	Days	
	Target	*Annual performance*
2007-08 year end	18	15.2
2008-09 year end	16	12.3
2009-10 year end	16	14.3
2010-10 August	16	[1]14.6

[1] Year to date.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions: RDA/RAA80123 reports—DLA/AA Management Information Statistics.

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what target timescale his Department has set for processing decisions on claims for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* other benefit entitlements for patients diagnosed with (i) terminal and (ii) non-terminal cancer. [13700]

Maria Miller: Customers who have been diagnosed with terminal cancer can make a claim for disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) under special rules (SR). A claim can be considered under the SR if it is made expressly on the grounds that the person named on the claim form is a terminally ill person. For the purpose of SR, a person is terminally ill if they have a progressive disease and their death in consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within six months.

SR new claims are dealt with quickly and sensitively and with a minimum of delay. Consequently the internal target timescales for clearing SR new claims are not the same as a new claim. The Departments targets for DLA and AA SR new claims are called average actual clearance times (AACT). They measure the average number of working days taken to process SR new claims within the reporting year.

The target timescales for processing decisions are in the following tables:

(a) the AACT target and performance achieved for DLA SR new claims from 2007-08 to August 2010.

DLA SR new claims	*Target (days)*	*Annual performance (days)*
2007-08	8	6.0
2008-09	8	5.9
2009-10	8	6.7
2010-10[1]	8	[2]6.0 days

[1] August
[2] Year to date

(b) the AACT target and performance achieved for AA SR new claims from 2007-08 to August 2010.

AA SR new claims	*Target (days)*	*Annual performance (days)*
2007-08	8	4.5
2008-09	8	4.6
2009-10	8	4.9
2010-10[1]	8	[2]4.4

[1] August
[2] Year to date
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions - RDA/RAA80123 reports - DLA/AA
Management Information Statistics

Processing timescales for non-terminal cancer patients claiming DLA and AA are the same as for other applicants to those benefits. The target timescales for processing new claim decisions are in the following tables:

DLA new claims	*Target (days)*	*Annual performance (days)*
2007-08	38	36.0
2008-09	38	29.8
2009-10	38	33.8
2010-10[1]	37.7	[2]33.3

[1] August
[2] Year to date

AA new claims	*Target (days)*	*Annual performance (days)*
2007-08	18	15.2
2008-09	16	12.3
2009-10	16	14.3
2010-10[1]	16	[2]14.6 days

[1] August
[2] Year to date
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions-RDA/RAA80123 reports-DLA/AA Management Information Statistics

Customers diagnosed with terminal or non-terminal cancer are entitled to the full range of benefits depending on their circumstances. In particular if a customer has terminal cancer they can claim employment and support allowance (ESA) under the special rules (SR). A customer who claims under the SR is terminally ill and not expected to live for more than six months. Awards of employment and support allowance are made on the basis of medical certificates from a GP. Customers with a terminal illness are not required to have a full medical examination for a work capability assessment. Following the benefit claim immediate advice is sought from Atos Healthcare to confirm that SR applies. In August 2010 replies were received in 0.8 days within the two day AACT.

The target timescales for processing ESA decisions are in the following table:

ESA claims	*Target (days)*	*In month performance (days)*
2010-10 April	14	10.8
2010-10 May	14	10.8
2010-10 June	14	10.7
2010-10 July	14	10.6

Sources:
Department for Work and Pensions- Management Information System Programme (MISP) and ESA Medical Services Contract Management Team Management Information Statistics

Processing timescales for non-terminal cancer patients claiming other benefits are the same as for other applicants to those benefits.

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to increase the speed at which claims for disability living allowance and attendance allowance for those diagnosed with non-terminal cancer are processed. [14939]

Maria Miller: Customers who have been diagnosed with non-terminal cancer would have their claims processed under normal rules for new claims. This is because customers with non-terminal cancer would be treated the same as for other applicants to disability living allowance and attendance allowance (they would not be treated under the special rules).

The Department's targets for disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) new claims are called average actual clearance times (AACT). They measure the average number of working days taken to process new claims within the reporting year and are set each financial year.

The target time scales for processing decisions are in the following tables:

AACT target and performance achieved for DLA new claims from 2007-08 to August 2010

		Days
DLA new claims	*Target*	*Annual performance*
2007-08 year end	38	36.0
2008-09 year end	38	29.8
2009-10 year end	38	33.8
2010-10 August	37.7	[1]33.3

[1] Year to date

AACT target and performance achieved for AA new claims from 2007-08 to August 2010

		Days
AA new claims	*Target*	*Annual performance*
2007-08 year end	18	15.2
2008-09 year end	16	12.3
2009-10 year end	16	14.3
2010-10 August	16	[1]14.6

[1] Year to date

PDCS is currently pursuing a LEAN programme and is seeking opportunities to exploit further efficiencies in our processing capability, however, there are no current plans to review these targets.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions—RDA/RAA80123 reports—DLA/AA Management Information Statistics.

Social Security Benefits: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Gateshead constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [13385]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Gateshead parliamentary constituency

	Number of recipients
ESA	1,410
IB/SDA	5,530
DLA	7,080

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseloads for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

State Retirement Pensions and Pension Credit: Gloucester

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Gloucester *(a)* receive the basic state pension, *(b)* receive pension credit and *(c)* are eligible for pension credit but do not claim it. [15131]

Steve Webb: The document "Caseloads for selected benefits by 2010 Parliamentary Constituencies February 2010" is available in the Library and includes figures for pension credit and state pension.

Estimates of eligibility and therefore those who are entitled to pension credit but have not claimed it are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled but not receiving pension credit are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up in 2008-09".

Winter Fuel Payments: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the payment of winter fuel allowance to people residing abroad; and if he will make a statement. [14370]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments are paid to former UK residents living in the European Economic Area only if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

European Union law means that some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people when they move to another country within the European Economic Area.

JUSTICE

Asylum: Appeals

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the effect on the number of appeals in *(a)* asylum cases and *(b)* immigration cases of changes to the tendering process for immigration legal aid. [13980]

Mr Djanogly: The means and merits test for legal aid has not altered as a result of the tendering process and there is not therefore expected to be any impact on appeals in either asylum or immigration cases as the LSC considers that sufficient access to services remains in place.

Community Orders

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the powers of review of community orders under section 178 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in increasing the accountability of offenders. [13441]

Mr Blunt: There has been no assessment of the effectiveness of the powers of review of community orders under section 178 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, separate to wider evaluations of community justice pilots at North Liverpool and Salford. There are four published reports evaluating the Community Justice Initiatives in Salford and North Liverpool. They are:

Process Evaluation of Salford Community Justice Initiative (2007) at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/1111.htm

Evaluation of North Liverpool Community Justice Centre (2007) at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research291007c.htm

North Liverpool Community Justice Centre—Surveys of local residents (2007) at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research291007b.htm

Initial evaluation of reconviction rates in community justice initiatives (2009) at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reconviction-community-justice.htm

Convictions: Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions relating to motor vehicle tyre condition there have been in each of the last 10 years. [13560]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the offence defective tyres, England and Wales 1999 to 2008 (latest available) can be found in the table as follows.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

The number of defendants found guilty[1] [2] at all courts for the offence defective tyres, England and Wales 1999 to 2008[3] [4]

	Found guilty
1999	8,432
2000	6,227
2001	4,823
2002	4,249
2003	3,893
2004	4,250
2005	3,940
2006	3,595
2007	3,774
2008[3]	4,317

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it Is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] Includes the following statute and corresponding offence description:
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 RR.25-27
Road Traffic Act 1988 S.41A as added by Road Traffic Act 1991 S.8

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Courts: Manpower

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the use of court co-ordinators in the criminal justice system. [13440]

Mr Blunt: Community Justice was piloted in 12 magistrates courts across England and Wales. The court co-ordinator was one aspect only piloted at the Salford Community Justice Initiative, which ceased sitting in 2008. Since then, learning from Salford and the other 12 courts has been used to introduce sustainable mechanisms to achieve similar objectives in other courts, without incurring the costs of appointing dedicated co-ordinators.

Courts: Video Conferencing

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will *(a)* make greater use of existing video-conferencing facilities in courts and *(b)* reduce the number of times that defendants attend preliminary hearings. [14137]

Mr Djanogly: The Government strongly support the use of video links technology where it is appropriate to do so and encourages courts to look to increase its use wherever possible. Revised guidance was issued to the courts in August 2010 with a primary focus to increase utilisation of video link equipment across the courts estate by highlighting best practice and inviting courts and local prisons to set up 'Partnership Agreements' to enable greater use. In addition I have asked my officials to look more generally at how wider use of video and telephone links, where appropriate, might improve the public's experience and the operation of the justice system.

Much has been done in recent years to reduce unnecessary court hearings particularly in the magistrates courts where the number of hearings has fallen from estimated average number of 3.02 hearings per defendant (March 2007) to 2.19 hearings in June 2010 (Time Interval Survey, June 2010). However where a hearing is necessary we support the use of video links in appropriate cases wherever possible.

Dead Bodies

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many 104 removal of body notice forms have been issued in the London borough of Waltham Forest since 2000; and how many of those were issued within four days of request. [14501]

Mr Djanogly: This information is not held centrally. I have, however, made inquiries with the East London Coroner's office, who have advised that 2,045 removal of body notice forms have been issued since 2000. They have not been able to say how many of those were issued within four days of request. I will write to the hon. Member when I have any further information, and place copies in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13928]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows.

The timeliness of the Ministry of Justice's payments to suppliers for the latest available period (August 2010) is set out in the following table.

	Within 30 days	*Within 60 days*	*Within 90 days*	*Over 90 days*	*Total*
Core Department	3,338	128	46	14	3,526
Agencies	64,473	2,889	591	647	68,600
NDPBs	2,321	137	9	9	13,490
Totals	70,132	3,154	646	670	73,475

This represents 94% of all payments made within 30 days.

The Ministry measures its payment to suppliers against the five-day target applied to all Government Departments and performance against this target is published on the Ministry's website.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on public consultations in each of the last five years. [12907]

Mr Djanogly: My Department does not record the total costs of individual public consultations, for example, the costs of relevant staff time are not calculated and recorded as a consultation cost.

However, some costs are recorded separately, including the printing of paper copies of consultation papers, the translation of consultation papers into Welsh and public engagement activities as part of the consultation process. These costs are provided in the following table for both my Department and its predecessor where they are available.

Department for Constitutional Affairs

Consultation	*Consultation period*	*Costs of consultation where known[1] (£)*
Consultations published in 2006		
Openness in the Family Courts - Confidence and Confidentiality: http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/courttransparencey1106/cp1106.htm	11 July to 30 October	28,000
Legal Aid: A sustainable future (a joint consultation with the Legal Services Commission): http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/legal-aidsf/sustainable-future.htm	13 July to 12 October	[2]23,500

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[1] The costs shown represent the non-staff costs such as consultation events, Welsh translations of documents and printing etc.

[2] Matched by the Legal Services Commission.

Ministry of Justice

Consultation	*Consultation period*	*Costs of consultation where known*
Consultations published in 2007		
Confidence and confidentiality: openness in family courts—a new approach: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp1007.htm	26 June to 1 October	£14,000
OCJR—Improving the criminal justice process for young witnesses	22 June to 19 October	£2,000
Governance of Britain: Judicial Appointments: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp2507.htm	25 October to 17 January 2008	£15,000
Governance of Britain—War Powers and Treaties: Limiting Executive Powers: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp2607.htm	25 October to 17 January 2008	£14,000
Strategic plan for reducing reoffending 2008-11; Working in partnership to reduce reoffending and make communities safer: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/rr1107.htm	27 November 2007 to 22 February 2008	£75,000
Believing we can (faith-based organisations and reducing reoffending): http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/bwc1107.htm	27 November 2007 to 22 February 2008	£10,000
NOMS third sector action plan: http://www.justice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/publications/consultations/BWC_third_sector_08/?view=Standard&pubID=510239	27 November 2007 to 22 February 2008	£20,000 plus £18,000 for joint consultation events for NOMS Believing we can and Third Sector Strategy
MoJ Third Sector Strategy: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp3307.htm	20 December 2007 to 20 March 2008	£35,500
Consultations published in 2008		
Local Authority Charges for Property Search Services: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/lacpss180108.htm	18 January to 18 April	£12,000
Best value in probation: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp0608.htm	9 April to 2 July	£9,500
Titan Prisons: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp1008.htm	5 June to 28 August	£1,210
Election Day-Weekend Voting: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp1308.htm	24 June to 26 September	£6,153.95
Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide: Proposals for Reform of the Law: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/cp1908.htm	28 July to 20 October	£10,254
Rules for Mandatory Polygraph Tests for Sex Offenders: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/mandatory-polygraphy-consultation.htm	19 September to 21 November	£300
Reducing Re-Offending in London: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-reducing-reoffending-london.htm	8 October 2008 to 30 January 2009	£13,995.26

Ministry of Justice

Consultation	*Consultation period*	*Costs of consultation where known*
Reviewing the Mental Capacity Act 2005: Forms Supervision and Fees: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reviewing-mental-capacity-act.htm	23 October 2008 to 15 January 2009	£6,300
Proposed Closure of Telford Hearing Centre: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/proposed-closure- telford-hearing-centre.htm	10 November 2008 to 8 February 2009	£643.69
Consultations published in 2009		
Proposal for three Local Justice Areas instead of nine in Lincolnshire: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/three-local-iustice-areas-lincolnshire.htm	1 September to 30 November	Postage costs of £27,072. Plus the Cost of Statutory Instrument (TSO) was £340.
Defamation and the internet: the multiple publication rule: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/defamation-internet-consultation-paper.htm	16 September to 16 December	Estimated printing costs £377.40 (£443.46 including VAT).
Welsh language scheme/Cynllun Iaith Gymraeg: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/welsh-language-scheme.htm	9 November 2009 to 18 January 2010	Translation of Welsh Language Scheme and consultation—Translate amendments only Cost £950 + VAT. Email re consultation £45.00 + VAT
Electoral registers: proposed changes to the Edited Register: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/electoral-registers-consultation.htm	24 November to 23 February 2010	Welsh Language Translation £2,024.00.
Review of fees for Lands Tribunal: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/lands-tribunal-fees.htm	2 December 2009 to 28 February 2010	Hard copies of the Consultation Document £1,221.13. Postage costs for sending out hard copies of documents—£150. (Total £1,371.13).
Civil Law Reform Bill: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/civil-law-reform-bill.htm	15 December 2009 to 9 February 2010	Welsh Language translation of main body of the paper £800 (£920 including VAT). Estimated printing costs £754.80 (£886.89 including VAT).
Mortgages: power of sale and residential property: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/mortgages-power-sale.htm	29 December 2009 to 28 March 2010	Welsh Language translation—£1,160 (£1,334 including VAT). Estimated printing costs £377.40 (£443.46 including VAT).

Ministry of Justice

Consultation	*Consultation period*	*Costs of consultation where known*
Consultations published in 2010		
Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace: http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/lord-chancellor-advisory-jps.htm	23 February to 18 May 2010	Costs—Translation (Welsh) for consultation document £564; for Response (£564) total—£1,128.
Trusts (Capital and Income) Bill: http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/lord-chancellor-advisory-jps.htm	22 March to 14 June	Welsh Translation: Summary—Translate whole document—Cost £94.00 including VAT. Consultation paper—Capital and Income Bill—Translate whole document—Cost £480 + VAT.
Her Majesty's Court Service published 16 consultations on changes to the HMCS estate 2010	16 consultations in 2010—please refer to the MoJ website at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm	We are unable to break down the costs for each individual consultation but the total cost of printing hard copies of the consultation papers came to £4,793.64.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [13061]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) came into existence in May 2007, encompassing the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office. This means comprehensive figures are only available for the last three financial years.

Consultants and contractors are only used when there is a compelling business need to do so. They are used to provide specialist skills and expertise for a limited period of time where in-house skills are not available. The average and highest daily rate paid to consultants in the last three financial years are detailed in the table as follows:

	Average day rate (£)	*Highest day rate (£)*
2007-08	665	[1]
2008-09	659	[2]
2009-10	590	[3]

[1] £1,500 per day to three individual consultants for 632 days in total

[2] £2,000 per day to two individual consultants for 11 days in total

[3] £1,700 per day to one consultant for 13 days in total

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many chairs his Department and its predecessors purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12795]

Mr Blunt: Expenditure on chairs is not recorded separately from expenditure on the wider cost category of "furniture and fittings".

Prior to late 2009, the Ministry of Justice and its executive agencies (Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian and the National Offenders Management Service (NOMS) held contracts for the provision of furniture with several suppliers for which complete data is no longer available.

Since late 2009 it has been departmental policy to purchase furniture in-house from Prison Industries wherever possible.

It would incur disproportionate costs to examine invoices held locally to identify expenditure incurred specifically on chairs, including expenditure on the five most expensive chairs.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each year since its inception have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12713]

Mr Djanogly: In the context of this answer, IT contracts are interpreted as contracts relating to ICT-related projects or programmes, business change projects or to projects where ICT is a key element in delivering a service or outcome.

As part of the coalition Government programme and the ICT moratorium, the Department has reviewed all existing ICT projects to assess whether they should be closed, continued or re-scoped, and we are awaiting the results of this review.

Outside of this review, no ICT contracts have been cancelled (or abandoned) by the Ministry of Justice since its formation in May 2007. However, two ICT projects have been cancelled, as identified in the response to a question from the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 346W.

August 2007—The National Enforcement Tracker System (NETS) project was cancelled following a detailed review which highlighted that the cost and scope of the project no longer provided value for money or met current business requirements. Expenditure to closure of the project was £4.328 million; this sum was reported in accordance with HMT accounting rules.

November 2008—following a review by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) Board, the Electronic Filing and Document Management programme, which included plans for future investment in ICT, was cancelled. The costs incurred by the programme from commencement of the programme in August 2005 to its closure in November 2008 were £5.922 million.

In neither case were ICT contracts cancelled.

Departmental Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average hourly rate his Department has paid to each employment agency for agency staff in each year since its inception. [12714]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice utilises the following contractual arrangements, at the stated average[1] hourly day rate.

[1] The average hourly day rate has been calculated based on the 'mean' of all of the roles included in each supplier contracted rate card.

Contract/agency	*Average hourly day rate (£)*		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Temporary clerical and admin framework, contract with Brook Street (UK) Ltd	10.94	11.08	10.91
Temporary clerical and admin framework, contract with Hays Specialist Recruitment Ltd	9.42	9.40	10.06
Temporary clerical and admin framework, contract with Employment Plus Ltd	9.99	10.13	10.89
Temporary clerical and admin framework, contract with Office Angels	10.38	10.53	10.39
Supply of labour only contract with Hays Construction and Property	16.87	15.42	13.06

EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* for most of their time on the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [13779]

Mr Djanogly: The number of officials working within the Ministry of Justice on the negotiation, implementation or administration of legislation or policies originating from the EU will vary at any one time.

As a rough estimate there are currently around 18 officials who currently work full-time and a further 21 who spend approximately 50% or more of their time on current EU business.

Family Courts: Legal Aid

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the reduction in the number of contracts issued by his Department for family legal aid work; and if he will make a statement. [14759]

Mr Djanogly: Representations to the Secretary of State have been received by a number of sources and have focused on two aspects of the tender process. The majority related to the outcome of a specific bid, and are being dealt with under the Legal Service Commission's (LSC) appeal process. A smaller number of the representations express concern about the impact of the tender outcome in particular geographic areas. These issues are being actively explored by the LSC.

The tender process will not be completed until all appeals have been concluded and pre-contract verification has finished which the LSC estimate will be by the end of September 2010.

Family Courts: Social Work

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many reports were provided by independent social workers to *(a)* family courts, *(b)* magistrates courts, *(c)* county courts and *(d)* the High Court in each year from 2002 to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [13191]

Mr Djanogly: Independent social workers provide the court with advice and assessments reports in a range of proceedings. These reports are commissioned and organised locally. Information on the number of reports provided is not recorded by the courts.

First Offenders

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who *(a)* were given a non-custodial sentence and *(b)* were given their first custodial sentence in each year from 2002 to 2010 had previously had (i) no criminal convictions, (ii) one criminal conviction, (iii) two criminal convictions, (iv) three criminal convictions, (v) four criminal convictions, (vi) five to 10 criminal convictions, (vii) 11 to 20 criminal convictions, (viii) 21 to 30 criminal convictions, (ix) 31 to 40 criminal convictions, (x) 41 to 50 criminal convictions, (xi) 51 to 75 criminal convictions, (xii) 76 to 100 criminal convictions and (xiii) more than 100 criminal convictions. [13794]

Mr Blunt: The figures requested are in tables 1 and 2 as follows. The figures are further breakdowns of the criminal history statistics presented in chapter 6 of "Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales 2008" which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

"Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales 2009" with 2009 data will be published on 21 October 2010.

Table 1. Number of offenders who were sentenced to non-custodial sentences for indictable offences[1] [2] by the number of previous convictions, 2002-08, England and Wales

Number of persons

Number of previous convictions	*2002*	*2003*[3]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
0	56,711	55,885	53,899	53,004	52,313	52,985	52,490
1	30,685	29,779	27,762	26,731	26,780	27,630	27,349
2	22,115	21,349	19,344	18,642	18,337	18,872	18,825
3	17,401	16,820	15,307	14,275	13,966	14,657	14,053
4	14,361	13,892	12,272	11,446	11,351	11,857	11,574
5-10	52,780	52,612	46,734	43,139	41,979	43,493	44,546
11-20	36,785	38,945	36,179	33,796	32,371	33,642	35,584
21-30	12,844	14,341	14,616	14,088	14,143	15,232	17,122
31-40	3,967	4,731	4,954	5,378	5,614	6,416	7,526
41-50	1,259	1,539	1,690	1,818	1,994	2,446	3,141
51-75	756	918	1,018	1,132	1,135	1,483	1,923
76-100	187	229	202	182	240	329	432
More than 100	257	251	213	181	179	232	315
Total	250,108	251,291	234,190	223,812	220,402	229,274	236,888

Table 2: Number of offenders who were sentenced for the first time to immediate custody for indictable offences[1, 2] by number of previous convictions, 2002-08, England and Wales

Number of persons

Number of previous convictions	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
0	9,843	9,643	10,483	10,581	10,505	11,559	12,389
1	3,912	3,704	3,835	3,764	3,737	3,931	3,979
2	3,080	2,761	2,883	2,773	2,751	2,754	2,731
3	2,478	2,349	2,337	2,203	2,212	2,180	2,218
4	2,084	1,931	1,861	1,814	1,717	1,714	1,740
5-10	5,640	5,420	5,277	4,943	4,844	4,969	5,240
11-20	1,015	1,052	1,121	1,103	1,114	1,150	1,284
21-30	39	57	53	59	70	75	63
More than 30	14	20	16	11	15	8	11
Total	28,105	26,937	27,866	27,251	26,965	28,340	29,655

[1] Including indictable and trial either ways offences.

[2] Counts of offenders sentenced during the year, an offender may be counted more than once if an offender had been sentenced more than once.

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Fraud

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted under the House to House Collections Act 1939 for fraudulent collection in each of the last 10 years; and what sentence was given in each case. [14798]

Mr Blunt: Persons proceeded against for offences under the House to House Collections Act 1939 cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database as they form part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be analysed.

Immigration

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which organisations matter starts previously allocated to Refugee and Migrant Justice have been allocated. [13982]

Mr Djanogly: When RMJ went into administration, they reported that 12,500 open client matters existed. All these cases have now either (a) been closed because in the professional opinion of the ex-RMJ caseworker no further action was required or (b) transferred to an alternative provider who had capacity to handle the matter. Some alternative providers needed additional matter starts and these have been agreed while others were able to handle some or all of the requests within their existing allocation of matter starts. Requests for additional matter starts are considered during the life of the contract with a legal aid provider. We cannot confirm whether requests from providers were as a result of the transfer of work from RMJ or that demand had increased from clients. We can however confirm that RMJ had 7,800 unused matter starts at the point of insolvency and that no provider has had a request for an increase to handle transferred cases refused.

The following legal aid providers have received bulk transfers of former RMJ clients from BDO the Administrators. There may be other providers who have received individual former RMJ clients.

- Barry Clark Solicitors
- Bindmans
- Brighton Housing Trust
- Camden Community Law Centre
- Charles Annon and Co. Limited
- Chinyoka Solicitors
- Cleveland and Co.
- Corbin and Hassan
- Dare Emmanuel Solicitors
- David Gray Solicitors
- Derbyshire Access 2 Law
- Duncan Lewis
- Fadiga and Co.
- Elder Rahimi
- Fountain Solicitors
- Freeman's Solicitors
- French and Co.
- Halliday Reeves
- Harbans Singh and Co. Solicitors
- Harehills and Chapeltown Law Centre
- Haringey Citizens Advice Bureau
- Havilland Solicitors
- Immigration Advisory Service
- Irving and Co.
- Island Advice Centre
- Islington Law Centre
- J D Spicer and Co.
- Jackson Centre
- Kirklees Law Centre
- Lawrence and Co.
- Migrants Resource Centre
- Newcastle Law Centre
- Palis Solicitors
- Paragon Law
- Parker Rhodes Hickmotts
- Ratna and Co.
- Sheffield Law Centre
- Sheikh and Co. Solicitors
- Sriharans Solicitors
- Sutovic and Hartigan
- Switalski's Solicitors
- Talbots
- Thompson and Co.
- Tower Hamlets Law Centre
- Trott and Gentry
- Waran and Company
- Wick and Co. Solicitors
- Wilson Solicitors LLP.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new matter starts were allocated to the Immigration Advisory Service in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [13983]

Mr Djanogly: The IAS allocation of matter starts in 2008-09 was based on an "estimate of likely usage". Their actual 2008-09 running rate informed their 2009-10 award in line with awards to other providers. The 2010-11 award was for 6.5 months only and not a full year as the current contract was due to end part way through the year.

The three IAS offices in the north-west (Manchester, Liverpool and Blackburn) operate under a single contract and there is therefore no separate contractual matter starts allocation for Manchester. The matter start allocations for the 'north-west' and other areas are shown in the table along with the England and Wales total.

The Legal Services Commission only provides legal aid for England and Wales.

LSC office	*2008-09*		*2009-10*		*2010-11 (est)*	
	Immigration	*Asylum*	*Immigration*	*Asylum*	*Immigration*	*Asylum*
Midlands[1]	1,760	867	3,955	1,504	2,142	815
Wales/South West[2]	491	327	1,065	442	480	126
East[3]	414	204	910	296	493	160
Leeds[4]	1,268	1,037	3,750	2,558	2,031	1,386
London[5]	2,650	991	5,176	1,516	2,804	821
North West[6]	1,223	1,495	3,120	2,231	1,690	1,208
Oakington Immigration Removal Centre	—	—	75	2,424	41	1,313
England and Wales	7,806	4,921	18,051	10,971	9,681	5,829

[1] Includes Birmingham, Leicester and Derby offices
[2] Includes Cardiff and Bristol offices
[3] Covers Peterborough and Norwich offices
[4] Covers Leeds, Newcastle, Bradford, Sheffield and Middlesbrough offices
[5] Covers Southwark, Hounslow and Bedford offices
[6] Covers Manchester, Liverpool and Blackburn offices

Julian Harrington

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the governing governor did not conduct the security category review which took place in April 2010 for Julian Harrington; and when Mr Harrington will be transferred to HMP Hollesley Bay. [15025]

Mr Blunt: Governing Governors are not routinely required to conduct categorisation reviews. It is not the policy of the National Offender Management Service to comment publicly on the cases of individual prisoners. My Noble Friend Lord McNally wrote to the hon. Member on 22 August explaining the latest position, and I will contact her very shortly to update this.

Legal Aid: Immigration

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the compatibility with the UK's international humanitarian obligations of changes in the tendering process for immigration legal aid. [13979]

Mr Djanogly: The European Community Council Directive 2003/9/EC (Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003: Laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers) places certain obligations on member states with regard to the reception conditions for asylum applicants. Provisions include minimum standards on information, documentation, education, health care, accommodation, withdrawal of reception conditions as well as extra provisions for children and vulnerable individuals. The directive contains no obligation on member states to provide "free legal advice" and assistance to asylum seekers at the initial stage of their case. After a negative decision, the directive stipulates that access to legal assistance for appeals shall be laid down in national law (Article 21 (2)). As this is a minimum standards directive, member states are free to provide "more favourable conditions" than those contained in the directive. Unlike most member states, the UK continues to provide free legal "advice" and "representation at the Tribunal" out of public funds to eligible asylum applicants at both the initial stage and appeals. The current tendering process has in no way restricted the scope of legal aid.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms there are to monitor the effect on service provision of the tendering process for immigration legal aid. [13981]

Mr Djanogly: In apportioning immigration cases across England and Wales the LSC identified areas of high demand within procurement areas (access points) and assigned matter starts (cases) to these to ensure provision where there is the greatest demand. Once the tender process is completed and the LSC has carried out validation checks to ensure that successful applicants are in a position to deliver services from the start of the contract, the LSC will undertake an evaluation of the results.

Legal Profession: Fees and Charges

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the recommendations of Lord Justice Jackson's review of civil litigation costs, what plans he has for the future role of the Civil Justice Council in addition to consulting on a voluntary code of conduct for third party funders. [13819]

Mr Djanogly: Lord Justice Jackson's Review of Civil Litigation Costs makes a broad range of significant recommendations for reducing costs in the civil justice system. Some recommendations are for the Government to take forward and as I announced to the House on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 68WS, we will be consulting in the autumn on implementing Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations on the reform of funding arrangements.

Work on other recommendations is more appropriately led by others. So for example in addition to the consultation on a voluntary code of conduct for third party funders that I announced on 26 July 2010, the CJC are currently undertaking a review of pre-action protocols which includes consideration of Sir Rupert's recommendations in this area. They are also setting up a working group to look at the recommendation for uniform calibration of software systems used in assessment of damages.

I have agreed with the senior judiciary that they are uniquely placed to lead on the recommendations relating to case and costs management. The Civil Justice Council will assist them as appropriate in taking forward this work.

My officials will continue to work with the Civil Justice Council in identifying areas where their collective experience can best be directed in considering and taking forward the many recommendations contained in Sir Rupert's report.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes he plans to make to the provisions of conditional fee arrangements as a result of the recommendations of the review by Lord Justice Jackson; and if he will make a statement. [13832]

Mr Djanogly: As I announced to the House on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 68WS, we will be consulting in the autumn on implementing Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations on the reform of funding arrangements, as set out in his report 'Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Final Report' (published 14 January 2010). This will include in particular his proposals for significant reform to conditional fee agreements (CFAs). The Government will determine the way forward subject to the results of that consultation.

Legal Representation: Immigration

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many immigration cases have been adjourned due to a lack of legal representation for former clients of Refugee and Migrant Justice since that organisation entered into administration. [13765]

Mr Djanogly: The First-tier Tribunal—Immigration and Asylum Chamber is responsible for considering appeals against decisions made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The tribunal is not able to provide the information which the hon. Member has requested as it is not able to identify cases which have been adjourned solely on the basis of Refugee and Migrant Justice entering administration. It could do so only at disproportionate cost by checking each appeal file for the reasons for adjournment for the period in question.

Legal Services Commission: Manpower

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff at each grade have been engaged in processing tender applications at the Legal Services Commission in 2010, with particular reference to the notification of results in July 2010. [12856]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission used an e-tendering system which minimised the manual assessment needed.

A team of 55 staff, ranging from band A3 (lowest level line management, senior processing or administration roles) to band C (middle/senior managers, technical experts), were trained in the use of the e-tender system and assessment. This team's work was moderated by a team of 10 moderators from within the Commissioning and Operational Policy department who also received training and were graded at band B1 (lower management, technical specialists), B2 (middle management, senior technical specialists) or band C. Moderators could escalate any matters they could not resolve to a core team, consisting of a band B2, a band C and two band Ds (senior managers).

Final decisions on the failure of tenders at the Pre Qualification and Essential Stages and the agreement of the approach for assessing exceptional circumstances were agreed by either a band D or a director. Assessors, moderators and the core team have all participated in the notification process.

Magistrates Courts

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the utilisation rate was at *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* Redhill, *(c)* Staines and *(d)* Woking Magistrates Court in 2009-10; [12770]

(2) what the average utilisation rate was of a magistrates court in England in 2009-10; [12915]

(3) what the utilisation rate was at Woking Magistrates Court in each of the last 10 years. [12916]

Mr Djanogly: In 2009-10 nationally, magistrates courts sat an average of 64% of the possible time available based on a five hour day five days a week.

The utilisation rates in 2009-10 in Surrey are as follows:

Guildford	62.3%
Redhill	80.1%
Staines	74.6%
Woking	75%

Her Majesty's Courts Service only retains utilisation figures for the past three years. At Woking magistrates court these were:

2009-10	75.1%
2008-09	78.4%
2007-08	69.8%

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population in *(a)* Woking and *(b)* the North West Surrey local justice area able to travel to Staines Magistrates Court by public transport in 60 minutes. [12891]

Mr Djanogly: Statistics are not kept centrally on the population or geographical spread of people in each local justice area. It is proposed that only work currently heard at Woking from Runnymede will transfer to Staines, which is around 20 minutes by bus. The remaining two-thirds of work will be transferred to Guildford, which is 6.4 miles from Woking (20 minutes by car; eight minutes by train). Further analysis of travel times will be undertaken during the consultation period.

Magistrates Courts: Population

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average population of a local justice area in England is. [12764]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently 235 local justice areas in England and Wales. The Office of National Statistics' mid-2009 estimate of the population of England and Wales is 54,809,000. This indicates an average population of approximately 233,230 per local justice area. The Secretary of State is consulting on plans to reduce the number of local justice areas. A decision will be made after the consultation period has ended.

Population data can be viewed on Table 2 on the UK National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pop0610.pdf

Magistrates Courts: Surrey

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the population was in *(a)* North West Surrey, *(b)* North Surrey and *(c)* South West Surrey local justice area in the latest period for which figures are available; [12760]

(2) what estimate he has made of the population to be served by *(a)* North Surrey and *(b)* South West Surrey local justice area after the proposed merger with North West Surrey local justice area. [12765]

Mr Djanogly: Statistics are not kept on the population in each local justice area.

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates courts there were in Surrey in each of the last 20 years. [12919]

Mr Djanogly: Central Government became responsible for the magistrates courts in 2005 upon the formation of HM Courts Service. Limited information is available for the period before that. 20 years ago there were magistrates courts in: Camberley, Chertsey, Dorking, Epsom, Farnham, Guildford, Godstone, Redhill, Staines, Walton, and Woking.

Magistrates courts continue to sit at Guildford, Redhill, Staines and Woking.

Magistrates Courts: Woking

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the closure of Woking Magistrates Court on those people living in areas surrounding Woking and dependent upon public transport to attend courts. [12771]

Mr Djanogly: A preliminary impact assessment for all of the court estate proposals is available on the Department's website. Detailed impact assessments, including the impact on people who live in the areas surrounding Woking and who are dependent on public transport are currently being produced and will be informed by responses to the consultation paper.

Mediation

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mediations; and if he will make a statement. [13448]

Mr Djanogly: People often find themselves involved in court actions when their disagreements might be better resolved between themselves at a much earlier stage and with a more satisfactory outcome, through processes such as mediation, rather than the 'winner takes all' approach offered by litigation. The intervention of the court should only be sought when a genuine point of law exists or when people or businesses are at risk. As a Government, we are keen for people to take a less adversarial and a more collaborative approach to solving their problems and encourage greater use of mediation in both civil and family issues.

Members: Correspondence

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to the letter dated 9 August 2010 from the hon. Member for Witham on Jeremy Bamber; and if he will make a statement. [15030]

Mr Blunt: I replied to the hon. Member on 8 September and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to the letter dated 12 August 2010 from the hon. Member for Witham on Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson; if he will meet their relations to discuss their case; if he will assess the merits of using his powers to commute their sentences; and if he will make a statement. [15238]

Mr Blunt: A reply to my hon. Friend's letter of the 12 August was sent on 10 September. That letter sets out the circumstances under which powers to commute a sentence may be used. In addition, my letter to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel) dated 5 August set out the reasons why it would not be appropriate for Ministers to meet the families of Mr Binnington and Mr Atkinson.

National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the speech by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders on 22 July 2010, whether the Secretary of State *(a)* saw and *(b)* approved the speech prior to delivery, with particular reference to the announcement of the rescission of Prison Service Instruction 50/2008 on acceptable activities in prisons. [12497]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I work closely with all the Ministers in my Department on the range of issues for which I am responsible. The speech to which you refer, given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Reigate (Crispin Blunt) on 22 July, drew attention to PSI 50/2008 which expired on 5 January 2010.

Prior to this, decisions on activities in prison were taken locally by Prison Governors. The expiry of that PSI provided an opportunity to reassess whether local discretion could be returned to Prison Governors, or whether activities in the 140 prisons were better managed via central prescription. A new instruction was subsequently issued which drew attention to the need to ensure public confidence and modest costs were maintained, but which returned decision-making to the local level.

National Offender Management Service: Location

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many National Offender Management Service headquarters functions have been moved outside London in each of the last six years; and if he will make a statement. [12704]

Mr Blunt: During 2006 NOMS relocated the financial transactions functions in HQ from London to Newport. In 2007 NOMS relocated the Human Resources transactions function from London to Newport. In total 285 posts were moved out of London and the south east during these relocations.

	Functions moving
2004	—
2005	—
2006	Financial transactions
2007	Human Resources transactions
2008	—
2009	—

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many operational managers were employed by the National Offender Management Service in each of the last six years. [12878]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of operational managers employed across both public sector and contracted Prison Service establishments and the National Offender Management Service headquarters is contained in the following table.

Operational managers in post[1]

	Operational managers[2]
31 March:	
2004	1,474
2005	1,596
2006	1,841
2007	1,886
2008	1,975
2009	2,088
2010	2,018

[1] Basis: headcount, i.e. part-timers count as one. Data source: Personnel Corporate Database and Oracle HRMS).

[2] All managers are allocated as operational at certain contracted establishments.

Non-Molestation Orders

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions there were for contempt of court where the offence related to a breach of the terms of a non-molestation injunction order in each year since 2000; [14728]

(2) how many convictions there were for offences related to breaches of non-molestation injunction orders in each year since 2005. [14731]

Mr Blunt: Contempt of court statistics cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database as they form part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be analysed.

Information on offenders who breach the terms of their injunction is not currently collated by the Ministry of Justice.

Prison Accommodation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places have been created in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available; and what the estimated capital construction cost was per prison place per year of lifespan of the prison concerned, excluding operation, maintenance and other costs. [12701]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows how many new prison places have been created in England and Wales in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available.

	Number of places[1]
2008	
July	0
August	102
September	449
October	132
November	269
December	106
2009	
January	190
February	92
March	82
April	29
May	212
June	29
July	34
August	41
September	400
October	0
November	523
December	77
2010	
January	720
February	274
March	566
April	332
May	533
June	70
July	857
August	41

[1] Includes places delivered through new build accommodation, conversion of existing buildings and more effective use of the estate.

The average construction cost for new prison places, including costs of providing ancillary facilities, and excluding running costs, is approximately £170,000 per place across the lifetime of the accommodation.

Prison Service: Ethnic Groups

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of HM Prison Service officers and staff at each HM Prison Service facility in the London region are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. [14165]

Mr Blunt: Information on what proportion of HM Prison Service officers and staff are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds based on headcount at each establishment within the London region as at 31 March 2010 is contained in the following table. Data provided are on headcount basis (part timers count as one).

BME staff proportions within London establishments

Percentage

	Officers		*Other staff*	
Establishments	*BME*	*White*	*BME*	*White*
Belmarsh	10.0	90.0	13.8	86.2
Brixton	32.0	68.0	37.5	62.5
Feltham	18.8	81.2	19.9	80.1
Holloway	39.2	60.8	55.3	44.7
Isis	10.0	90.0	3.8	96.2
Latchmere House	8.6	91.4	29.5	70.5
Pentonville	27.8	72.2	52.1	47.9
Wandsworth	21.1	78.9	33.5	66.5
Wormwood Scrubs	24.7	75.3	38.0	62.0
London total	22.2	77.8	32.1	67.9

Note:
Includes prison, senior and principal officers.

Prison Service: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many HM Prison Service *(a)* officers and *(b)* other staff are employed at each HM Prison Service facility in the London region. [14164]

Mr Blunt: Information on how many officers and other staff employed at each establishment within the London region as at 31 March 2010 is contained in the following table. Data provided is on headcount basis (part timers count as one).

Staff in post within London establishments

Establishment (Est)	*Officers[1] (all officer grades)*	*Other staff*	*Grand total*
Belmarsh	521	395	916
Brixton	213	125	338
Feltham	403	326	729
Holloway	239	251	490
Isis	22	34	56
Latchmere House	36	45	81
Pentonville	385	212	597
Wandsworth	430	273	703
Wormwood Scrubs	312	240	552
Total (London Est)	2,561	1,901	4,462

[1] Includes prison, senior and principal officers

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of HM Prison Brixton; and if he will make a statement. [14167]

Mr Blunt: The role and function of prisons is kept under regular review, taking into account a number of factors affecting the requirements of a fit for purpose custodial estate. Decisions on the long-term future of the estate will be made in light of the review of rehabilitation and sentencing and the spending review.

Prison Service: Manpower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many operational managers were employed at each prison establishment on 31 March in each of the last 13 years; [12697]

(2) how many non-operational managers were employed at each prison establishment on 31 March in each of the last 13 years; [12698]

(3) how many prison officers were employed at each prison establishment on 31 March in each of the last 13 years; [12880]

(4) how many administration grade staff were employed at each prison establishment on 31 March in each of the last 13 years. [12882]

Mr Blunt: Information on staffing levels in the grades specified within each Prison Service establishment is contained in the tables that have been placed in the House Library. Certain staff groups, for example operational support grades, are not included in the questions. A table of overall staff numbers at each establishment has also been included.

Prisoners' Release

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners released from Gloucester Prison had no fixed address in each of the last five years. [13409]

Mr Blunt: Figures for the number of offenders released from Gloucester prison, who had no fixed address, are presented in the following. Data prior to 2007 is not held centrally.

	Total releases	*No fixed abode*	*% releases with no fixed abode*
2009	468	31	7
2008	504	30	6
2007	473	36	8

Note:
Figures exclude any prisoners deported on release

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Streatham

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at each prison in the London region normally reside in Streatham constituency. [14170]

Mr Blunt: Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison and recorded on the central IT system. However this information is stored in such a way that the retrieval and processing required to answer this question would be at disproportionate cost.

Work is currently under way to improve prisoner data systems and once this work is complete data will be easily obtainable and will readily be able to provide a population breakdown down to the Streatham constituency level.

It is anticipated that this work will be completed in approximately three months time and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as the data are available.

Prisons: Manpower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers and *(c)* executive support and administration staff there were in each prison in each of the last five years; [12702]

(2) how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers and *(c)* executive support and administration staff were employed by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in (i) headquarters, (ii) area offices and (iii) other NOMS non-prison offices in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [12703]

Mr Blunt: Information on staffing levels in the grades specified within each Prison Service establishment is contained in tables which have been placed in the Library. The data provided cover the public sector and the contracted estate. Grading systems vary between the public and private sectors, and between individual contractors.

Prisons: Population

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population was at each prison establishment on 31 March in each of the last 13 years. [12881]

Mr Blunt: The prison population on the last day of March of each year from 1998 to 2010 is provided in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison population, England and Wales, as at 31 March, by establishment and year

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Acklington	656	630	726	725	765	792	869	875	820	851	875	937	931
Albany[1]	432	427	436	438	439	444	521	516	522	523	555	554	*
Aldington[2]	139	141	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Altcourse	634	684	842	788	902	1,007	988	892	980	1,103	1,315	1,281	1,303
Ashfield[3]	*	*	281	354	373	218	270	269	343	398	391	337	235
Ashwell	453	491	477	380	471	527	533	544	543	540	543	618	213
Askham Grange	124	122	115	112	136	131	134	88	122	109	97	114	112
Aylesbury	298	364	339	353	347	354	363	384	433	443	441	440	438
Bedford	367	373	346	368	437	462	481	486	471	483	483	405	487
Belmarsh	884	725	768	832	850	862	921	902	919	927	912	883	862
Birmingham	1,050	1,071	1,082	828	876	949	1,406	1,400	1,445	1,450	1,434	1,413	1,461
Blakenhurst[4]	842	826	819	820	838	879	870	979	1,058	1,061	1,059	*	*
Blantyre House	118	116	120	109	119	117	117	117	119	120	118	117	121
Blundeston	337	351	405	408	418	459	462	454	452	460	465	517	520
Brinsford	527	499	500	464	467	449	463	443	467	423	425	548	451
Bristol	582	579	542	535	608	602	581	600	600	601	610	605	611
Brixton	576	752	810	749	752	791	818	786	811	805	808	754	774
Brockhill[5]	125	146	150	151	159	152	138	112	124	169	167	*	*
Bronzefield[6]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	445	444	427	429	420	484
Buckley Hall[7]	382	380	390	358	*	368	322	351	376	381	377	378	383
Bullingdon	675	866	866	856	894	947	943	972	951	967	947	1,041	1,121
Bullwood Hall	138	134	138	160	178	146	152	148	156	159	205	226	223
Bure[8]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	249
Camp Hill[1]	477	465	468	524	530	544	574	591	591	595	588	580	*
Canterbury	257	280	274	291	310	281	315	294	282	273	271	292	303
Cardiff	714	659	650	615	669	656	675	759	751	756	747	806	823
Castington	322	398	210	274	332	300	336	349	370	390	380	350	283
Channings Wood	593	577	576	582	603	620	664	656	651	662	719	719	724
Chelmsford	483	385	375	468	521	564	593	580	593	715	697	688	688
Coldingley	297	282	310	351	376	385	387	390	390	393	391	503	509
Cookham Wood	149	150	149	143	141	139	137	165	178	168	0	106	92
Dartmoor	652	641	659	637	618	613	618	617	610	605	638	643	590
Deerbolt	415	406	457	386	478	395	481	441	387	368	436	436	504
Doncaster	1,102	1,024	1,072	1,085	1,081	1,128	1,118	1,057	1,051	1,134	1,114	1,141	1,120
Dorchester	213	216	220	229	248	256	223	239	252	244	234	225	232
Dovegate[9]	*	*	*	*	699	853	839	791	832	844	839	849	1,137
Dover	309	239	300	289	138	261	296	256	253	305	310	314	311
Downview	337	340	338	327	255	217	217	247	338	349	348	354	338
Drake Hall	285	218	192	193	266	232	297	283	230	257	302	265	285
Durham	934	893	883	693	720	679	725	651	844	972	931	938	974
East Sutton Park	93	81	79	92	96	93	97	94	90	95	94	85	81
Eastwood Park	258	265	306	297	322	261	334	323	294	342	307	329	310

Prison population, England and Wales, as at 31 March, by establishment and year

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Edmunds Hill[10]	*	*	*	*	*	*	299	150	355	357	361	369	380
Elmley[11]	914	889	905	909	938	957	973	982	975	985	992	945	*
Erlestoke	308	297	313	317	330	380	421	420	425	400	461	464	468
Everthorpe	457	462	464	468	385	375	455	461	651	677	679	683	670
Exeter	440	435	466	464	489	526	516	534	514	506	476	521	548
Featherstone	595	593	589	591	598	610	611	601	610	613	684	679	649
Feltham	908	835	746	643	702	629	688	578	629	636	597	635	657
Ford	455	352	416	311	490	515	527	512	522	438	529	525	549
Forest Bank[12]	*	*	517	723	980	1,031	994	1,012	1,020	1,060	1,134	1,094	1,422
Foston Hall	141	147	171	152	213	223	227	202	241	222	252	223	236
Frankland	446	516	516	597	649	663	662	712	700	716	726	729	816
Full Sutton	581	525	577	578	605	597	599	599	570	570	597	569	590
Garth	645	638	640	620	647	632	659	640	602	614	811	805	843
Gartree	361	366	352	278	275	283	406	414	471	572	576	675	677
Glen Parva	861	845	833	759	802	784	778	754	776	808	797	785	809
Gloucester	326	294	289	240	327	317	302	271	280	301	312	303	309
Grendon (Spring Hill)	439	448	438	448	446	498	557	511	522	553	530	515	541
Guys Marsh	437	510	515	505	515	562	558	556	569	570	565	571	555
Haslar	156	143	157	135	134	111	118	136	149	124	142	150	118
Hatfield[13]	169	145	115	160	160	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Haverigg	545	357	389	494	561	560	563	535	568	568	627	607	563
Hewell[4]	192	162	186	158	180	173	165	167	148	182	184	1,368	1,418
High Down	681	790	632	686	697	715	732	736	738	759	940	1,066	1,104
Highpoint	699	648	777	787	872	910	807	808	808	801	798	917	944
Hindley	522	459	376	472	397	502	505	409	416	456	498	193	349
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)[14]	392	327	293	325	409	455	303	277	241	292	332	340	340
Holme House	956	945	963	927	966	1,013	996	969	973	1,000	993	937	1,084
Holloway	520	508	483	469	472	486	460	428	406	427	453	432	457
Hull	534	523	487	533	589	1,026	1,086	1,039	948	1,045	1,034	998	1,025
Huntercombe	256	299	223	337	337	320	364	352	339	361	344	291	162
Isle of Wight[1]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1,667
Kennet[15]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	333	336	338
Kingston (Portsmouth)	118	175	182	184	186	186	136	139	193	198	198	173	195
Kirkham	671	424	501	469	503	505	542	478	439	513	577	572	582
Kirklevington Grange	179	176	166	165	180	182	217	220	223	222	223	270	266
Lancaster Castle	218	215	144	187	236	241	235	240	236	233	209	230	238
Lancaster Farms	473	473	488	499	512	460	519	486	519	504	490	503	524
Latchmere House	190	173	174	182	184	190	197	205	168	205	205	199	203
Leeds	1,199	1,224	1,236	1,244	1,226	1,242	1,243	1,193	1,122	1,015	990	1,151	1,158
Leicester	352	331	339	333	313	363	374	341	337	353	329	339	347
Lewes	461	456	435	445	489	498	513	518	535	521	581	664	479
Leyhill	378	344	377	321	430	497	498	502	341	399	480	498	499
Lincoln	610	430	491	487	534	424	461	444	458	497	708	672	665
Lindholme	686	653	513	575	738	700	663	770	823	1,029	1,093	1,122	1,091
Littlehey	640	639	628	631	644	659	698	703	689	698	701	717	876
Liverpool	1,427	1,419	1,375	1,282	1,433	1,447	1,449	1,375	1,300	1,339	1,360	1,230	1,344
Long Lartin	363	342	446	446	429	435	436	430	438	421	414	437	623
Lowdham Grange	250	498	518	492	522	520	520	489	515	559	675	695	741
Low Newton	317	98	211	242	285	295	320	238	230	249	307	295	255
Maidstone	557	541	572	368	429	535	548	545	553	583	471	408	595
Manchester	1,092	1,137	1,128	1,136	1,244	1,271	1,252	1,230	1,230	1,246	1,203	1,199	1,262
Moorland	758	757	777	758	782	980	1,008	1,000	1,002	1,012	1,015	1,014	1,009

Prison population, England and Wales, as at 31 March, by establishment and year

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Morton Hall	204	158	186	116	196	331	365	321	291	319	367	359	304
New Hall	372	385	365	361	369	341	376	350	329	362	419	365	358
North Sea Camp	213	177	191	190	209	272	303	305	239	274	296	303	303
Northallerton	256	295	262	217	220	223	221	154	238	247	232	208	234
Norwich	718	682	661	652	738	762	726	785	764	618	532	501	757
Nottingham	417	431	435	495	496	544	509	493	490	551	551	550	616
Onley	630	608	524	593	531	541	404	492	565	634	642	624	617
Parc	691	774	769	873	947	1,026	1,016	973	1,007	1,126	1,173	1,180	1,190
Parkhurst[1]	393	438	450	432	507	508	496	499	508	525	491	484	*
Pentonville	1,109	1,093	1,070	1,088	1,132	1,241	1,199	1,195	1,139	1,131	1,142	1,087	1,216
Peterborough[16]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	18	761	902	977	933	974
Portland	571	550	549	503	413	446	468	388	438	552	564	601	473
Preston	675	657	600	571	562	666	675	606	574	726	734	677	780
Ranby	577	729	752	747	740	766	858	965	1,005	1,048	1,067	1,057	1,087
Reading	233	221	226	203	262	265	273	268	286	268	241	227	263
Risley	876	866	791	801	818	1,064	1,060	1,065	1,065	1,079	1,078	1,086	1,084
Rochester	410	376	366	354	45	165	280	366	384	388	389	629	716
Rye Hill[17]	*	*	*	339	653	663	660	590	590	644	622	647	643
Send	229	77	206	214	219	218	209	210	203	214	232	277	277
Sheppey Cluster (Elmley)[11]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	967
Sheppey Cluster (Standford Hill)[11]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	448
Sheppey Cluster (Swaleside)[11]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	990
Shepton Mallet	208	211	211	129	188	176	187	179	182	187	185	189	189
Shrewsbury	335	308	343	320	340	346	350	275	327	339	319	292	306
Stafford	621	626	609	625	624	631	638	671	675	669	680	736	737
Standford Hill[11]	327	204	316	321	368	424	423	438	456	395	444	451	*
Stocken	456	576	579	570	578	577	621	601	616	619	742	812	815
Stoke Heath	610	622	521	531	558	626	670	639	654	667	642	562	568
Styal	285	277	438	436	436	431	442	349	428	426	452	432	436
Sudbury	491	508	495	492	510	515	556	557	560	497	569	566	573
Swaleside[11]	634	616	726	727	781	761	774	779	775	776	767	814	*
Swansea	323	342	307	179	346	367	347	405	416	428	421	416	396
Swinfen Hall	198	285	317	308	319	314	310	457	608	620	619	612	628
The Mount	618	617	717	717	745	756	757	696	720	719	761	761	759
The Verne	571	569	556	564	575	582	579	584	577	591	590	583	583
The Weare[18]	356	311	380	367	394	392	371	381	*	*	*	*	*
The Wolds	402	404	401	397	405	348	358	321	295	377	375	381	379
Thorn Cross	220	203	218	188	246	176	261	268	236	224	223	289	283
Usk (Prescoed)	282	290	304	322	324	392	413	414	404	408	410	404	427
Wakefield	605	547	558	571	568	569	562	553	701	746	743	729	736
Wandsworth	925	1,272	1,274	1,317	1,408	1,478	1,432	1,424	1,484	1,475	1,480	1,664	1,631
Warren Hill[14]	*	*	*	*	*	*	218	197	207	218	208	207	149
Wayland	642	632	632	616	644	696	699	694	698	702	780	1,007	997
Wealstun	620	614	614	620	623	576	568	750	767	799	527	515	509
Wellingborough	330	327	506	489	519	520	523	515	576	645	637	642	640
Werrington	167	102	103	98	124	129	146	124	154	158	131	129	127
Wetherby	313	345	264	316	331	333	297	332	339	323	322	396	307
Whatton	236	272	273	272	276	343	358	354	450	760	817	836	813
Whitemoor	531	475	390	386	417	411	423	436	450	449	392	448	449
Winchester	598	589	610	572	570	625	591	644	710	541	554	696	685
Woodhill	708	691	657	652	724	771	792	767	774	784	814	812	804
Wormwood scrubs	1,346	904	753	966	1,101	1,223	1,244	1,218	1,243	1,257	1,289	1,260	1,298
Wymott	799	797	789	781	789	808	849	1,040	1,040	1,062	1,065	1,133	1,140

Prison population, England and Wales, as at 31 March, by establishment and year

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Total	65,435	64,212	65,463	65,394	69,784	72,954	75,295	74,962	77,058	79,745	81,695	82,893	85,184
Police cells	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	191	64	*	*
Establishment and police cell total	65,435	64,212	65,463	65,394	69,784	72,954	75,295	74,962	77,058	79,936	81,759	82,893	85,184

'*' = Not applicable.

[1] HMP Albany is now part of the organisational amalgamation of the former HMPs Camp Hill and Parkhurst. They now form HMP The Isle of Wight from 1 April 2009.

[2] HMP Aldington closed in 1999.

[3] Ashfield was opened in 1999.

[4] HMP Blakenhurst and two former prisons HMP Brockhill and HMP Hewell Grange amalgamated on 25 June 2008 to form HMP Hewell.

[5] HMP Brockhill now forms part of HMP Hewell from 25 June 2008.

[6] HMP Bronzefield opened in June 2004.

[7] HMP Buckley Hall was re-roled to a female closed training prison in 2002. The establishment was re-roled back to a male category C prison in 2005.

[8] HMP Bure opened in November 2009.

[9] HMP Dovegate opened in 2001.

[10] In October 2003, Highpoint North (female) was formally re-named HMP Edmunds Hill. The establishment was re-roled as a category C male prison in 2005.

[11] HMP Elmley forms part of The Sheppey Cluster, an amalgamation of HMP Standford Hill and HMP Swaleside.

[12] HMP Forest Bank opened in 2000.

[13] In 2002 Hatfield was taken over by HMP Moorland and re-named Moorland Open.

[14] In 2002 Hollesley Bay and Warren Hill became separate establishments, the Open complex retaining the name Hollesley Bay.

[15] HMP Kennet was opened in 2007.

[16] HMP Peterborough, a dual purpose-built prison for men and women opened in March 2005.

[17] HMP Rye Hill opened in 2001.

[18] HMP The Weare 'prison ship' closed 2005.

Probation: Gloucestershire

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the annual costs of the Gloucestershire Probation Service was attributable to estate management services provided by the National Offender Management Service in each of the last five years. [13410]

Mr Blunt: The following figures have been provided by Gloucestershire Probation Trust:

£000

	2009-10	*2008-9*	*2007-8*	*2006-7*	*2005-6*
Estate charge per audited accounts accommodation, maintenance and utilities	689	684	671	706	708
Funding	8,346	7,600	7,795	7,028	6,502
% of funding	8	9	9	10	11

Prosecutions And Convictions: Landlords

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of landlords for failing to maintain their property under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System in respect of (i) excess cold and dampness, (ii) leaking roofs, (iii) dangerous or unstable structures, (iv) of dangerous electrical installations, (v) general disrepair issues, (vi) overcrowding and (vi) fire hazards in the latest period for which figures are available; [13731]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions of landlords in each local authority area for an offence of (i) tenant harassment and (ii) illegal eviction under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977 there were in each year since 2004; [13733]

(3) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions of landlords in each local authority area for failing to arrange an annual gas safety check or issuing a copy certificate under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 there were in each year since 2004; [13734]

(4) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions of landlords in each local authority area for failing to keep in repair and proper working order the installations in the dwelling house for the supply of water, gas and electricity have taken place under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 in each year since 2004; [13735]

(5) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of landlords in each local authority area for failure to comply with an enforcement notice under Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004 in each year since its introduction; [13745]

(6) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions of landlords there were in each local authority area for failing to obtain a house in multiple occupation licence under the 2004 Housing Act 2004 in each year since its introduction; [13746]

(7) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of landlords in each local authority area for an offence of failing to protect tenants' deposits in an approved scheme under the 2004 Housing Act in each year since its introduction. [13747]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the unlawful eviction of an occupier and the unlawful harassment of an occupier under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977 in England and Wales from 2004 to 2008 (latest available) is given in the following tables. Figures are provided by police force area as the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database does not hold details of offences by authority area. Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Court proceedings data held centrally in an aggregated format do not separately identify individual offences under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985. Similarly it is not possible to separately identify specified offences under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System, and the Housing Act 2004.

Information under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 is not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977, England and Wales, by force[1], 2004 to 2008[2,3,4]

Unlawful eviction of occupier	*Proceeded against*					*Found guilty*				
Force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	1	1	4	1	2	1	1	2	1	—
Bedfordshire	4	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Derbyshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	4	2	—	—	—	4	—	2	—
Humberside	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	—
Kent	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Leicestershire	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	8	5	9	8	1	4	3	4	2	2
Northamptonshire	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Nottinghamshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	2	3	2	1	—	—	4	2	—
Staffordshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Surrey	1	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—
Sussex	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	5	3	8	6	1	2	1	4	1	1
West Yorkshire	1	1	3	1	—	1	1	3	1	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	2	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
North Wales	4	3	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
South Wales	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	36	25	44	26	14	17	15	21	14	6

Unlawful harassment of occupier	*Proceeded against*					*Found guilty*				
Force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	2	1	4	—	6	—	—	2	—	3
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cleveland	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Devon and Cornwall	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hampshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	3	8	7	1	2	1	2	—	1	1
Northumbria	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
South Yorkshire	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Suffolk	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
West Midlands	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1
West Yorkshire	—	3	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—

Unlawful harassment of occupier	*Proceeded against*					*Found guilty*				
Force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South Wales	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
England and Wales	12	16	18	8	13	6	5	4	7	8

'—' = nil

[1] Where a police force area is not listed in the above table, assume nil data.

[2] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Remand In Custody: Young People

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of juveniles remanded in custody were subsequently (i) acquitted and (ii) given a non-custodial sentence in (A) magistrates and (B) Crown courts in each year since 2008; and if he will make a statement; [13586]

(2) *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of children (i) subject to court-ordered secure remand and (ii) otherwise remanded in custody were freed on bail prior to trial in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [13574]

Mr Blunt: The estimated number and proportion of juveniles remanded in custody who were subsequently acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence in England and Wales in 2008 (latest available) is shown in the table. Court data for 2009 are due to be published on 21 October 2010.

It is not possible to derive the remand status of defendants at the stages of proceedings specified in the question from information held by the Ministry of Justice on its court proceedings database.

Estimated number and proportion of juveniles[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted, received a non-custodial sentence[3] or a custodial sentence at magistrates courts and the Crown court, England and Wales, 2008[4, 5]

	Number of juveniles	*Percentage of juveniles[6]*
Magistrates courts		
Acquitted	660	21
Non-custodial	1,511	49
Immediate custody	931	30
Crown court		
Acquitted	167	11
Non-custodial	264	18
Immediate custody	1,052	71

[1] Defined as being aged 10-17 at the date of appearance in court.

[2] Includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings at magistrates and Crown courts who may also have been given bail at some stage of those proceedings.

[3] Magistrates courts figures exclude those committed for trial or sentence at the Crown court. Non-custodial sentences include discharges, fines, community sentences and a number of other sentences that do not involve incarceration. Acquitted includes proceedings discontinued, discharged, withdrawn and dismissed.

[4] Excludes remands/bail data relating to Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] Indicates that the data are provisional and subject to change.

[6] Percentages here represent the proportions of all juveniles who were remanded in custody, excluding those where the outcome resulted in committal for trial or sentence by magistrates courts to the Crown court.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

It is known that in some police force areas, information on remand decisions is not always readily available to those coding court proceedings returns. In certain cases, the return may be mistakenly coded as if no remand had taken place. For magistrates court proceedings, the number of remands and more importantly, the number which are in custody, are believed to be under-recorded in total. As the breakdown of remands into bail and custody cases for a number of forces is not accurate for a number of forces, estimates have to be made to provide national figures.

2. Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services.

Reoffenders

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rates for *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term prisoners released from Gloucester Prison were in each of the last three years. [13408]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is undertaking a programme of work to investigate whether meaningful data on the reoffending of former prisoners from individual institutions can be produced. It is our intention to publish some findings from this work on 4 November 2010 in a new publication which will include a range of data and analysis on reoffending which is not covered by the existing published statistics.

Reparation By Offenders

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the effect of *(a)* community pay-back schemes and *(b)* other restorative justice programming on re-offending rates. [13439]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out as follows.

Community payback schemes

The high-visibility community payback scheme did not commence until December 2008, therefore reoffending rates for the period covered by the scheme will not be available until data for the 2009 cohort are published in March 2011.

Reoffending rates are available for those who commenced both community and suspended sentence orders with a requirement for unpaid work only. The reoffending rate for those who commenced a community order with an unpaid work requirement between 1 January and 31 March 2008 was 25.3%, while the reoffending rate for those who commenced a suspended sentence order with an unpaid work requirement over the same period was 17.5%. These are the latest available data.

These figures do not make an assessment of the effectiveness of unpaid work schemes; differences between the rates may be due to differences in offender characteristics rather than simply the effectiveness of unpaid work in reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Restorative Justice

There is mixed evidence from published sources on the effectiveness of restorative justice in reducing reoffending. A Home Office/Ministry of Justice evaluation found a fall in the likelihood of reconviction over a two year period but, because of the small sample size, this was not statistically significant. There was no impact on the severity of reconvictions. The study did find a statistically significant reduction in the frequency of subsequent reoffending (when using a meta-analysis technique).

Sentencing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his Department's consultation on the sentencing frameworks for adult and young offenders and the range of penalties available in the criminal justice system. [13486]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is conducting a full assessment of sentencing to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and reducing reoffending. We are looking in detail at the sentencing frameworks for adult and young offenders, as well as the full range of penalties available in the criminal justice system. We will consult on our proposals as part of a Green Paper on rehabilitation, to be published in November.

Sentencing: Community Orders

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he and his officials have had on short-term sentencing policy and the use of community penalties. [13487]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is conducting a full assessment of sentencing to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and reducing re-offending. We are looking in detail at the sentencing frameworks for adult and young offenders, as well as the full range of penalties available in the criminal justice system. My officials and I have regular discussions as part of this work. We will consult on our proposals as part of a Green Paper on rehabilitation, to be published in November 2010.

Sexual Offences: Witham

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the number of people who have served custodial sentences for *(a)* sexual offences and *(b)* sexual offences with children living in Witham constituency; what steps have been taken to prevent such people re-offending; and if he will make a statement. [15029]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to give figures for the numbers of prisoners who have been discharged from prisons in England and Wales after serving custodial sentences for sexual offences and whose domicile addresses are in the Witham constituency.

The available information on the number of releases from prison establishments is published within Chapter 9 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009" available from the Library of the House and also available free at the following website address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

All offenders, including sexual offenders, who are sentenced to 12 months or more in prison, will be subject to a post custodial licence which is supervised by the probation service.

A licence contains standard conditions and, depending on the risk posed by the offender, may include additional conditions. An offender manager (probation officer) will supervise the offender to ensure that he/she complies with his or her licence conditions and, where there is evidence of increased risk to the public, will recall the offender to custody.

Tribunals: Employment

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employment tribunal cases have been brought in each year since 1990, broken down by the reason for the claim; and if he will make a statement. [13913]

Mr Djanogly: The following table lists the number of cases brought (i.e. lodged, accepted and issued) by employment tribunals throughout Great Britain for the period 1990-2010.

The Tribunals Service has published annual reports that break down the main heads of jurisdiction included in the cases brought since 1999-2000. The most recent annual report (for 2009-10) can be found online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/employment-eat-annual-stats.htm

Previous annual reports from 1999-2000 are available at:

http://www.employmenttribunals.gov.uk/Publications/annualReports.htm

Further breakdown could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

The following table also lists the total number of jurisdictional claims brought in each relevant year. An employment tribunal case brought can contain a number of grounds, known as jurisdictional claims. In any individual proceedings, the tribunal has to decide upon the merits of the case made under each jurisdiction, for example, unfair dismissal or sex discrimination. The total number of jurisdictions covered by each case gives a truer measure of work load than the global number of cases. The full breakdown of the annual jurisdictional mixes is shown under table 1 in each of the annual reports published.

Total receipts and jurisdictional claims accepted by ET since 1990

	Total receipts	*Total jurisdictional claims*
1990-91	43,200	n/a
1991-92	67,700	n/a
1992-93	72,400	n/a
1993-94	72,300	n/a
1994-95	75,200	n/a
1995-96	108,800	n/a
1996-97	88,900	n/a
1997-98	80,435	n/a
1998-99	91,900	148,800
1999-2000	103,900	176,700
2000-01	130,400	218,100
2001-02	112,200	194,100
2002-03	98,600	172,300
2003-04	115,000	197,400
2004-05	86,200	156,100
2005-06	115,000	201,500
2006-07	132,600	238,500
2007-08	189,300	297,000
2008-09	151,000	266,500
2009-10	226,100	392,800

Tribunals: Social Security Benefits

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against failed incapacity benefit and employment support allowance claims were heard by the Tribunals Service in each year since 2006; and what the total cost to the public purse of such appeals was in each of those years. [14003]

Mr Djanogly: The number of employment and support allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefit appeals heard by the first-tier tribunal—social security and child support in each year from 2006 were as follows:

		Number
	ESA	*Incapacity benefit*
2006-07	[1]n/a	59,115
2007-08	[1]n/a	57,808
2008-09	27	63,419
2009-10	50,791	47,202
2010-11[2]	46,230	13,682

[1] ESA was introduced on 27 October 2008.

[2] Year to date from 1 April 2010 to 31 July 2010

The Tribunals Service does not apportion costs at a level which would allow the precise cost of the individual case types to be reported. However, using a broad brush hearing clearance unit cost (including the Tribunals Service overheads) for all social security and child support cases, the estimated cost of the incapacity benefit and ESA hearings for each year are:

	Cost (£ million)
2006-07	15.3
2007-08	15.0
2008-09	17.3
2009-10	27.5

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12814]

Mr Blunt: All expenditure on food and drink is in line with the Ministry's internal Finance Policy Manual and Gifts and Hospitality Policy, which set out mandatory guidance for all staff regarding the use of public funds. Both are consistent with the Treasury guidance on "Managing Public Money" at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_mpm_index.htm

and the Treasury handbook on "Propriety and Regularity" at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_governance_valueformoney.htm

The Ministry's policy on in-house hospitality prohibits the supply of any alcohol to Ministry of Justice personnel who are paid from departmental funds. When providing hospitality to external parties, discretion can be exercised, for example, wine may be provided with a meal provided that expenditure is modest and appropriate to the circumstances.

Expenditure on alcohol is not specifically identified within the Ministry's accounting systems as it forms part of a wider 'entertainment and hospitality' classification. To identify specific amounts relating to alcohol of any form would involve examining every individual transaction within this wider category, which would incur disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is provided to UK Border Agency staff on responding to constituency cases raised by regional list members of the *(a)* Scottish Parliament, *(b)* National Assembly for Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland Assembly. [13223]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's policy is not to provide information on individual cases to Members of devolved legislatures, as immigration is a matter reserved for the Westminster Parliament. This policy is now under review. However, until a decision is taken on whether to change it, the previous policy remains in force.

The UK Border Agency will provide full responses to Members of devolved legislatures where they write on matters of policy or on non-case specific subjects.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum made before 5 March 2007 by residents of *(a)* Birmingham, Ladywood constituency, *(b)* Birmingham City Council area and *(c)* England have yet to be determined; and what proportion of these she expects to have been resolved by 31 August 2011. [14314]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to accurately report on the outstanding asylum cases being dealt with by the case resolution directorate (CRD) in the areas specified. As reported in July 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 50% of the concluded cases were data errors and required no further action. In addition, due to the age of some cases, addresses on file are subsequently found to have changed. Therefore, any such report would be unable to accurately represent CRD cases with outstanding applications.

The agency will be reporting on its current performance in clearing the backlog in the autumn. I am confident CRD are on track to clear the backlog of older asylum cases by summer 2011 or earlier.

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements her Department has put in place for the transfer or disposal of assets belonging to *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* illegal immigrants on deportation. [13207]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency officials have the same arrangements in place for failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants to secure or dispose of their possessions.

Where people have their removal enforced there is guidance in the public domain on the handling of belongings which can be found on the UK Border Agency website in chapter 45 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance at:

> www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Although this specific guidance relates to families, individuals are treated in line with this guidance.

If someone is arrested in their home a minimum of 30 minutes will be allowed for an individual or a family to pack their belongings dependant on a dynamic risk assessment. If someone is arrested outside their home the local immigration team will liaise with the departure port regarding arrangements for baggage delivery.

Individuals are advised of the need to make contact with someone to take responsibility for their belongings and will be provided access to telephones at the removal centre to make these arrangements. Further guidance can be found on the UK Border Agency website in the Detention Services Order 09-2008 at:

> www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/detention-services-orders/management-of-detainees'.pdf?view=Binary

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public order offences were reported in relation to the removal of *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* illegal immigrants during deportations in each of the last 12 months. [13211]

Damian Green: Public order offences, including those committed during a removal operation, fall under the jurisdiction of the police force within the area the offence was committed. Such data would be recorded at a local level by the police and is therefore not routinely available to the UK Border Agency.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many no-notice removals of failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants have been undertaken by the UK Border Agency in each of the last 12 months. [13219]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency policy is to give at least 72 hours notice of removal. However, in exceptional circumstances where the removal could not be managed in any other way, we have invoked a policy of giving a reduced period of notice. Although the notice period may have been less than 72 hours, some notice was always given. This policy of giving less than 72 hours notice was quashed by the High Court on 16 July 2010, and has not been in use since the granting of an interim injunction on 21 May 2010. The policy is now the subject of an appeal to the Court of Appeal. Over the last 12 months, reduced notice of removal applied as follows:

	Number of times reduced notice applied	*Number of times removal proceeded*
September 2009	1	1
October 2009	4	4
November 2009	2	1
December 2009	2	1
January 2010	3	3
February 2010	5	3
March 2010	5	4
April 2010	11	8
May 2010	13	4
June 2010	0	0
July 2010	0	0

	Number of times reduced notice applied	*Number of times removal proceeded*
August 2010	0	0

[1] One removal had the reduced notice period applied in December 2009 and was removed in January 2010.

[2] No planned removals proceeded with less than the standard notification period following the granting of an injunction at 14.00 on 21 May 2010.

[3] The rise in numbers for April and May is due to the coming into effect of new exceptions categories. The majority of these (nine in April 2010 and 12 in May 2010) were exceptions under the consent provision where the person being removed provided their written consent to a reduced notice period.

Asylum: Finance

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason her Department introduced the Azure card system for payments to those awaiting asylum application determinations. [14252]

Damian Green: Failed asylum seekers who are destitute and unable to leave the UK immediately due to circumstances beyond their control, can request the provision of support under section 4 of the 1999 Act.

Those in receipt of section 4 support are provided with accommodation and subsistence payments to the value of £35.39 per week. Until November 2009, the section 4 subsistence payment (then £35 per week) was provided by means of supermarket vouchers administered by UK Border Agency accommodation providers.

The voucher system was open to abuse and fraud and there was evidence that vouchers were often traded for cash at reduced levels. The vouchers also presented poor value for money to the user with restricted retail outlets. The Azure pre-paid payment card was introduced in a phased roll out between November 2009 and February 2010 to tackle this.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated annual administrative cost is of the Azure card system used for payments to those awaiting asylum application determinations. [14253]

Damian Green: The Azure payment card is administered for UK Border Agency by Sodexo Ltd. The payment card was introduced in November 2009 and has therefore been in operation for only 10 months. The payment card scheme has been designed to be self-financing.

The current forecasted annual running cost for the Azure payment card scheme is £353,000. However, fees generated by the commercial contracts Sodexo has negotiated with the various retailers, together with efficiency savings from UK Border Agency, will recoup the annual running costs.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether provision is made to ensure that persons receiving payments via the Azure card system are able to access small amounts of cash for items of expenditure for which the card is not suitable, with particular reference to bus tickets and other small purchases. [14326]

Damian Green: Subsistence payments via the Azure prepayment card are to be used to buy food and essential toiletries. There is no minimum limit on the cost of items that can be purchased with the Azure prepayment card as long as the supported person has sufficient funds on the card to pay for their intended purchase.

The UK Border Agency endeavours to ensure with accommodation providers contracted to provide asylum support accommodation, that the distance to shops that accept the Azure prepayment card is not more than three miles from the supported person's accommodation. If the distance is further, or if a supported person is unable to walk a distance of up to three miles by reason of a physical impediment or for some other medical reason, the accommodation provider may make alternative transport arrangements, deliveries, or arrange for the supported person to be moved closer to the local supermarket.

A supported person in receipt of support under section 4 support may also be eligible for additional services and facilities under the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Services or Facilities) Regulations 2007. The additional services and facilities available include the power to arrange for the supply of facilities for travel to receive health care treatment and to register a birth. If a supported person has an exceptional specific need for facilities to travel for purposes that do not fall within the aforementioned qualifying journeys, this can be arranged if the supported person demonstrates that his/her need is sufficiently exceptional to warrant a grant. Application forms for additional services and facilities are available on the UK Border Agency website.

Asylum: Iran

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iranian asylum seekers have had their claims *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused since 2000. [14362]

Damian Green: The accompanying table shows the number of initial decisions broken down by grants of asylum, grants of Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR), Humanitarian Protection (HP) and Discretionary Leave (DL) and refusals between 2000 and June 2010. Figures only include initial decisions on asylum applications and exclude all subsequent decisions.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletin which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Initial decisions[1, 2] on asylum applications, excluding dependants, nationals of Iran, January 2000 to June 2010

Principal applicants

Period	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[3]*	*January to June 2010[3]*
Recognised as refugees and granted asylum	390	575	395	110	70	70	90	210	230	235	220

Initial decisions[1] [2] on asylum applications, excluding dependants, nationals of Iran, January 2000 to June 2010

Principal applicants

Period	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[3]	*January to June 2010*[3]
Granted exceptional leave, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave	255	305	145	115	230	385	270	215	220	165	70
Refusals of asylum, exceptional leave, humanitarian protection and discretionary leave	2,815	5,120	2,420	2,930	3,590	2,850	1,850	1,665	1,355	1,700	875
Total initial decisions	3,455	6,000	2,965	3,155	3,890	3,305	2,205	2,090	1,800	2,100	1,160

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Provisional figures.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed Iranian asylum seekers have been returned to Iran since 2000. [14363]

Damian Green: The table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures to Iran of asylum cases for Iranian nationals from January 2004 to June 2010. Destination data have only been collated since 2004; data for earlier years are not available.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1] [2] [3] to Iran of asylum cases, for Iranian nationals, January 2004 to June 2010

Number of departures[4] [5]

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[6]	*2010*[6] *(January to June)*
Asylum cases, number of departures	245	375	470	475	490	340	50

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the international Organization for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[3] Figures include dependants.
[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.
[5] Destination as recorded on source database.
[6] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Borders: Personal Records

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she made of the performance of Raytheon prior to the termination of its contract to deliver the e-Borders programme. [12514]

Damian Green: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department was provided with extensive briefings on the Programme, including the performance of Raytheon, as well as the outcome of an independent review by the Office of Government Commerce.

I would like to refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 44-45WS, regarding the termination of the e-Borders contract. This explained that the way the existing programme was developing gave rise to serious concern. Progress had been extremely disappointing. While some elements had been delivered, there was a succession of missed milestones coupled with issues of quality. Delivery of the next critical parts of the programme was already running at least 12 months late and on top of this there remained risks of further delays. Since July 2009 the supplier had been in breach of contract and, despite extensive negotiations, no agreement had been reached about a remedial plan.

The supplier's performance had not been compliant with their contractual obligations and there was no confidence in their ability to address this situation.

The Home Secretary took into account the importance of the Programme for National Security and therefore gave very careful consideration, in consultation with other senior ministerial colleagues, before taking the decision to terminate the contract.

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many consultants were employed on her Department's eBorders programme in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; what costs were incurred in employing such consultants in each year; and what the equivalent expenditure has been in 2010-11 to date. [12772]

Damian Green: The following table provides the numbers and costs of consultants and independent contractors employed by the e-Borders Programme since 2006:

Consultancy	*Headcount*	*Costs (£)*
2006-07	103	10,046,869
2007-08	81	9,601,330
2008-09	53	10,651,890

The consultancy expenditure during 2010-11 for the first three months (April to June) has been £2,984,450.

The periods covered saw the programme move from procurement of the strategic solution and provision of the Semaphore pilot system to the more complex activity to assure the design and delivery of the strategic solution. The fall in consultant and contractor headcount during this time did not deliver an equivalent reduction in cost since there was an associated change in the mix and type of consultancy support provided, along with a need to use more hours from individual consultants because of the pressures on the programme and the requirement for their specialist knowledge.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment was made of the UK Border Agency's e-Borders senior management team's experience of managing large and complex IT programmes. [12874]

Damian Green: Senior managers brought on to the e-Borders Programme underwent an application process that assessed a range of their skills and competencies, including project and programme management skills and experience of managing large and complex IT programmes. The senior management team has also had the benefit of professional advice and assistance throughout the programme from specialist consultants including Partnerships UK, KPMG and Deloitte Consulting.

Cannabis: Sales

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward proposals to prohibit the sale of cannabis seeds. [13347]

James Brokenshire: The unauthorised cultivation of cannabis seeds and any subsequent supply and possession of cannabis is unlawful. There are no current plans to prohibit the sale of cannabis seeds.

The National Policing Improvement Agency and the Association for Chief Police Officers in England and Wales and Northern Ireland "Practice Advice on Tackling Commercial Cultivation and Headshops" guidance document gives advice in relation to action to tackle the sale and promotion of cannabis cultivation equipment, including cannabis seeds. The guidance can be found at:

www.npia.police.uk/en/docs/Cannabis_Cultivation_R.pdf

Cheshire Policy Authority: Publicity

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Cheshire Police Authority spent on each area-based edition of the Your Policing 2010 newspaper. [13349]

Nick Herbert: This is a matter for Cheshire police authority. The Home Office does not hold data on these figures, and therefore is unable to provide this information.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13295]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office's performance information for paying suppliers within 10 day of receipt of a compliant invoice in July and August 2010 is:

Home Office—invoices paid within 10 days

	July	*August*
Number of compliant invoices paid	2,007	1,667
Number of compliant invoices paid within terms	1,891	1,592
Percentage of compliant invoices paid within terms	94	96

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much office space per employee her Department occupied in each year since 1997. [12997]

Nick Herbert: My Department's office space per employee data for the last thee years excluding executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies, is as follows:

	Square metres
2007-08	12.8
2008-09	12.1
2009-10	[1]12.5

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[1] Provisional subject to validation.

In April 2008 annual benchmarking of the Government estate started with the results published in the State of the Estate reports on the OGC website. This information was not recorded prior to April 2008. The provisional data for 2009-10 compiled in July is provided.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13016]

Nick Herbert: From available records expenditure on vacant property held by the Department, exclusive of agencies and non-departmental public bodies, for the last five full financial years was:

	£000
2005-06	0.5
2006-07	41
2007-08	65
2008-09	6.5
2009-10	47

Records are not available before 2005-06 and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain. Vacant property is space capable of disposal by sale or re-letting.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 25-28W, on departmental public expenditure, if she will break down by cost category the proposed savings from her Department's proposed expenditure on security and counter-terrorism. [11652]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office contributed £367 million in 2010-11 as part of the £6 billion in year cross government savings, of which £24 million were savings from the Department's security and counter terrorism budgets.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him on the 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 25-28W in which it was noted that, £10 million came from reductions to policing counter terrorism grants, and a further £14 million were savings from the security and counter terrorism budgets. The following details are the breakdown of the £14 million savings into cost categories.

The planned savings breakdown is as follows:

£8 million savings from reduced spend on contractors and contingent labour which includes consultancy costs;

£3 million from austerity measures and procurement savings.

These savings come directly from the overhead costs of the organisation and include savings from travel, conferences, and refreshments; and

£3 million programme savings, involving a mix of efficiency savings and further prioritisation.

Departmental Research

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research projects commissioned by her Department in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 have not had their results published. [10580]

Nick Herbert: The following list shows the social research commissioned externally in 2009 and 2010 that has not yet been published. These projects were all commissioned prior to May 2010. Many projects are still in progress; others are being quality assured and peer reviewed prior to being published in the Home Office Research Series.

The Department is reviewing its research programme to ensure it matches the priorities of the coalition Government, including what new research is required.

We plan to publish this research when it is complete in line with the Government's commitments to transparency in regard to making available information collected by Government except in the case where the Home Office Chief Scientific Advisor decides not to publish in a Home Office series on the grounds of

"1. inadequate scientific quality following external peer review or

2. on public interest grounds for example security concerns, where an unclassified summary document may be published with a classified version available where it is appropriate to do so, or

3. for operational reasons where, in some cases, the Department may decide to publish only a summary of research and allow the more detailed research to be made available separately by, for instance allowing the contractors to publish.[1]".

Some research commissioned in 2009 and 2010 will not be published on security grounds and is not included in the list.

[1] This was included in the Home Office response to the Government Office for Science: Science review of the Home Office and Ministry of Justice issued on 12 June 2008.

Social research commissioned by the Home Office in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010 that has not yet been published:

(a) Social research projects commissioned in 2009 by the Home Office

An Evaluation of phase two Alcohol Arrest Referral Schemes

Annual evaluation of projects under three European Commission funds for 2008-09, (i) An Evaluation of the Deaf Third Country Nationals Integration Project, (ii) An Evaluation of the Gateway Protection Programme, (iii) Evaluation of the Transnational Project between Ireland and the UK on the Resettlement of Refugees

British Crime Survey Methodology Review 2009

Crime costs of a quality-adjusted life year (two projects)

Development of DNA Interpretation Standards

Early Leavers from the Police Force

Engaged Communities research

Evaluation of Serious Organised Crime Task Force Programme

Exploring public perceptions of confidence in the police and their local partners

Feasibility study on surveying victims of sexual offences about satisfaction with the CJS

Investigating the impact of demographic change on the Home Office

Identifying police force surveys to measure public confidence in the police and local agencies

Khat: social harms and legislation—a literature review

Perceptions of social harms associated with khat use

Links between homicide and organised crime: an exploratory study

Neighbourhood Policing—Exemplar Sites

Offending and drug use interventions—creating a drug data warehouse

Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) on partnership working and its impact on reducing crime and anti social behaviour

Resource to Quality Assure the Analysis of a Criminal Network (ERGM)

Review of the delivery of the YCAP in intensive areas

A review of the research evidence on organised crime

Survey of Entry Clearance Officers & Managers

Teaching methods that help build resilience to violent extremism

The cost of terrorism in Northern Ireland

The factors involved in the movement away from violent extremism and promising practices from youth gangs and religious cults

The migrant survey: a feasibility study

Understanding vulnerability and resilience in individuals to the influence of violent extremism

Visa Decision Research, including Survey of Entry Clearance Officers and Managers and case-file analysis

(b) Social research projects commissioned in 2010 by the Home Office

An update of a Systematic Review on the effects of alcohol price on alcohol-related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour

Partnership Peer Support Program (PPSS) Evaluation

Al-Qaeda influenced radicalisation—an approach using Situational Action Theory

Crimes future work

REA on rehab & re-integration of drug-using offenders

A Rapid Evidence Assessment: What works in reducing alcohol related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in the night-time economy and in public spaced

Marriage and associated chain migration to the UK

Economic impacts of alcohol pricing policy options in the UK

Airside Workers Identity Card Evaluation

Evaluation of Neighbourhood Agreements

Valuing the security/privacy/inconvenience trade off

Rapid Evidence Assessment on third sector organisations and their contribution to tackling crime

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many external training courses were attended by staff of her Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13296]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: EU Nationals

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European Union citizens of each nationality were deported from the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [14711]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures for European Union nationals from 2005 to 2009.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1] [2] [3] for nationals of the European Union[4], 2005-09

				Number of departures[5]	
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[6]*
Austria	5	5	10	5	5
Belgium	45	20	40	40	30
Bulgaria	285	280	25	20	35
Cyprus	5	5	10	5	*
Czech Republic	15	20	15	40	45
Denmark	5	10	5	5	10
Estonia	5	5	5	5	5
Finland	*	*	—	5	5
France	130	100	110	100	90
Germany	65	60	85	90	80
Greece	10	10	10	10	5
Hungary	15	10	10	15	20
Ireland	45	50	35	10	10
Italy	45	50	70	55	40
Latvia	15	25	35	20	40
Lithuania	140	80	80	100	125
Luxembourg	—	—	—	*	—
Malta	—	*	*	*	*
Netherlands	120	75	165	130	100
Poland	55	50	80	135	180
Portugal	70	60	65	70	95
Romania	2,325	1,920	200	185	245
Slovakia	5	15	25	25	25
Slovenia	*	*	5	*	5
Spain	30	15	30	20	20
Sweden	10	15	15	20	20
Total EU	3,455	2,875	1,135	1,120	1,230
Selected other Europe					
Iceland	—	*	—	*	—
Liechtenstein	—	—	—	—	—
Norway	5	5	5	10	5
Switzerland	5	5	5	10	*
Total Europe	3,465	2,885	1,145	1,140	1,235

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (with — = 0, * = 1 or 2).

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Figures include dependants.

[4] Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007.

[5] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[6] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

Detainees: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what pilot schemes the UK Border Agency has introduced as part of the review of alternatives to child detention. [13208]

Damian Green: Following the Home Secretary's commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes the UK Border Agency is working to establish more effective ways of managing family returns without the need for detention in immigration removal centres. Through a new approach to families, the UK Border Agency is seeking to encourage greater compliance and increase the number of families who choose to return voluntarily. The new process is designed to give families every opportunity to comply with return and empower them to make their own preparations for departure.

Two pilots are currently being conducted to develop and refine the new family returns process, one in the North West of England and one in London. Additionally, UK Border Agency enforcement teams across the country are changing the way they work in every family case to ensure that every effort is made to secure the departure of illegal migrant families without detention.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children with primary carers in immigration detention were *(a)* in the care of (i) a parent and (ii) local authority children's services and *(b)* in private fostering arrangements in the last 12 months; how many such parents or primary carers have been (A) released from detention and (B) removed from the UK; how many are still detained; in how many such cases of fostering or care by a parent have children's services departments (1) reported to the UK Border Agency and (2) acted upon child protection concerns over the care arrangements for the child; [13770]

(2) what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency takes to gather information on child protection issues from (i) children's services departments and (ii) the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in cases where children of persons in immigration detention are in the care of another parent or are in private fostering arrangements and child protection concerns are raised; what other monitoring is undertaken of the welfare of such children; what steps are taken to gather information on child protection issues (A) before

detention of that parent or primary carer and (B) at each detention review; and what mechanisms the UK Border Agency has to record and follow up on actions of relevant case owners in such cases. [13771]

Damian Green: The information requested in the question is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and can be obtained only through examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Detention Centres: Restraint Techniques

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training on the control and restraint of adults over the age of 18 *(a)* each of the immigration detention centres and *(b)* each company contracted to provide UK Border Agency escorts has purchased in each of the last five years; and from what sources such training was purchased. [14329]

Damian Green: Detention custody officers employed in all immigration removal centres or as escorts are trained in the use of force by control and restraint instructors.

The control and restraint instructors are trained and annually accredited by instructors from the National Offenders Management Service (NOMS).

The UK Border Agency purchases the training from NOMS; individual contract values are commercially confidential and releasing these figures may prejudice the commercial interest of the agency and its suppliers.

The use of restraint is only ever used as a last resort to prevent a person from harming themselves, others or property or to ensure he or she complies with a reasonable requirement, including one to leave the UK. Its use must be justified and proportionate, and reported to the relevant UK Border Agency contract monitor.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* staff in immigration detention centres and *(b)* UK Border Agency escort providers are authorised to use the holds and techniques set out in the Physical Control in Care Manual on children under the age of 18. [14330]

Damian Green: The welfare of children in the care of the UK Border Agency is taken very seriously and in accordance with section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which requires all UK Border Agency staff and contractors to carry out their functions with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Staff in immigration removal centres (IRCs) and UK Border Agency escort providers are authorised and trained to use the holds and techniques set out in the Physical Control in Care (PCC) manual on children under the age of 18.

Only those staff employed to work in IRCs where persons under 18 years of age may be detained and escort providers used to escort children under the age of 18 are trained and accredited to use PCC.

The use of restraint on children is very rare in the immigration detention estate and during escort, and is normally restricted to prevent self-harm, injury to others or damage to property.

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continues to work with their corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

Entry Clearances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* in-country and *(b)* out-of-country permits were granted in respect of (i) dependants and (ii) principal migrants under each (A) tier and (B) route under her Department's immigration rules in each relevant year between 2006 and 2009. [14451]

Damian Green: Statistics on entry clearance visas (out-of-country) issued by applicant type in 2007 to 2009 and extensions of stay (in-country) granted by category and applicant type for 2006 to 2009 were published in the Home Office bulletin 'Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom, 2009' on 26 August 2010 in tables 1.1 and 4.1 respectively.

Statistics on entry clearance visas (out-of-country) by summary category granted in 2006 to Q2 2010 are published in the 'Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary Q2 2010' in supplementary table 1b.

The publications also cover admissions to the United Kingdom, asylum grants and grants of settlement. Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas for postgraduate study in England and Wales in the 2009-10 academic year were granted for citizens of Pakistan. [14651]

Damian Green: Information about student visas issued specifically for postgraduate study in the UK is not held centrally by the UK Border Agency and could be obtained only by inspecting individual records at a disproportionate cost. This applies to all student visa applicants regardless of their nationality.

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism is in place at UK entry control points to ensure that those entering the UK are not destined to work in domestic service which is *(a)* unpaid and *(b)* paid less than the national minimum wage; and if she will make a statement. [14686]

Damian Green: All arriving passengers are subject to examination by a Border Force officer, and all categories of the Immigration Rules which permit employment (including domestic service and voluntary work) require a non-EEA national to obtain prior entry clearance before travelling to the United Kingdom. Even then, admission is not simply a formality once such entry clearance has been obtained; a Border Force officer may cancel that entry clearance and refuse leave to enter if there is evidence that deception has been used to obtain the clearance or a change of circumstances has removed the basis of it. Individuals arriving for non-employment purposes may, similarly, be refused entry if it is discovered that employment is their true intention.

In the case of EEA nationals, the EEA regulations do not allow border officers to refuse admission solely on the basis of employment arrangements.

However all border officers are trained in identifying the signs of trafficking, of which domestic servitude is a part. If a border officer has concerns about the employment arrangements of any passenger, steps will be taken to intervene to safeguard the potential victim and prosecute anyone concerned with the exploitation; the case will also be referred to other responsible authorities and partner agencies such as the police and social services.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of foreign nationals working in domestic service who are *(a)* unpaid and *(b)* paid less than the national minimum wage; and if she will make a statement. [14687]

Damian Green: We do not hold data on the salary arrangements of non-EEA nationals who have been admitted to the UK as domestic workers. However, prior entry clearance is mandatory for domestic workers and, as part of the entry clearance process, employers are asked to confirm that they will comply with the UK's national minimum wage legislation once they are in the UK.

Non-EEA nationals may apply for leave to enter as a domestic worker in a private household or as a domestic worker in a diplomatic household. Since 27 November 2008, those seeking entry to work in diplomatic households must apply for entry as a temporary worker under tier 5 of the points based system (International Agreement category).

Domestic workers in diplomatic households entering under tier 5 may be given leave to enter for up to 24 months. Domestic workers in private households will be given leave to enter for 12 months, unless their employer is visiting the UK in which case leave to enter is restricted to six months in line with the employer. All domestic workers may apply to extend their stay.

The numbers of visas issued to domestic workers since 2004 are detailed in the following table. Reliable data for previous years are not held.

Domestic worker visas issued 2004-10

Visa category	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Domestic worker in private household (employer visiting)	15,663	15,550	16,302	15,013	14,749	13,152	10,777
Domestic worker in private household	1,086	1,399	1,626	1,651	1,720	1,740	1,334
Domestic worker in diplomatic household	227	236	329	253	191		
Tier 5 temporary worker (International Agreement)[2]						447	334
Total	16,976	17,185	18,257	16,917	16,660	15,339	12,445

[1] January to August

[2] Replaced the domestic worker in diplomatic household category from 27 November 2008

Note:

The data are based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Fraud

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the establishment of a single economic crime agency. [13720]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

In accordance with the coalition programme for government, the Government are examining options for the creation of an economic crime agency and will announce decisions in due course. As yet, no decisions have been taken on the agency's structure.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for offences of human trafficking and forced labour under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [13434]

Damian Green: Statistics held by the UK Human Trafficking Centre show that at 31 July there have been two convictions for trafficking for forced labour in 2009 and three convictions for conspiracy to traffic for forced labour in 2010.

There are 41 cases still pending that arise from arrests of in 2009 and 2010.

Human Trafficking: Yorkshire and the Humber

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation who are resident in *(a)* Yorkshire and *(b)* Leeds. [13640]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 September 2010]*: The latest national estimate of the number of victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is provided by the Acumen Report, produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers. This is a wide ranging study which estimated there are 2,600 victims in the UK.

This report did not investigate victim's immigration status. Our best understanding is that victims will be a mixture of those who are in the UK legally, those who have entered legitimately and stayed on to work in prostitution and those who have entered the country through clandestine means.

Identity and Passport Service: Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the amount spent on travel for employees at the Identity and Passport Service in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2008-09. [13351]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) expanded considerably over the past 10 years: the Durham regional passport office opened in 2000; the Identity Card Programme joined (the then UK Passport Service) in 2006 to form IPS; a network of 67 passport interview offices was opened in 2007-08; the General Register Office joined IPS in 2008 and; significant programme development work for the former ID cards programme was undertaken from 2008.

As a result, the number of people employed by IPS over the period and the number of IPS locations increased considerably leading to an increase in travel expenditure.

A further breakdown of travel expenditure for specific years could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU citizens of each nationality have been refused entry to the UK in each of the last five years. [14712]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of non-asylum passengers initially refused entry to the UK for European Union nationals from 2005 to 2009.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number non-asylum passengers initially refused entry at border control points on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Non-asylum passengers initially refused entry, for nationals of the European Union[1,2], 2005-09

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[3]*
Austria	5	5	5	*	5
Belgium	35	20	30	30	20
Bulgaria	160	165	25	15	10
Cyprus	*	*	*	*	*
Czech Republic	15	20	10	35	25
Denmark	5	5	5	5	*
Estonia	5	*	*	*	*
Finland	—	*	—	5	5
France	115	115	130	75	60
Germany	40	50	45	45	45
Greece	10	5	10	10	5
Hungary	15	10	5	5	5
Ireland	10	5	5	*	5
Italy	50	45	75	30	25
Latvia	10	10	20	5	10
Lithuania	130	55	35	45	35
Luxembourg	—			*	
Malta	—	—	—		*
Netherlands	75	40	80	60	40
Poland	50	40	35	40	35
Portugal	40	45	30	25	35
Romania	805	715	130	90	75
Slovakia	5	15	25	15	10
Slovenia	*	*	*	*	5
Spain	15	10	10	5	5
Sweden	5	10	10	10	5
Total EU	1,600	1,390	720	550	465
Selected other Europe					
Iceland		*			
Liechtenstein					
Norway	5	*	*	5	5
Switzerland	5	5	5	5	5
Total	1,610	1,395	730	560	475

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five (with '—' = 0, * = one or two).
[2] Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007.
[3] Provisional figures.
Note:
Includes cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons she did not reply personally to the letter from the right hon. Member for Oldham West and Royton to her of 23 July 2010 on the ePassport contract award. [13654]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* On specific matters, in this case related to a sensitive commercial and procurement issue, it is appropriate and common practice that the most senior and qualified civil servant would respond on behalf of the Minister.

John Collington, in his capacity as Group Commercial Director for the Home Office and on my behalf responded direct to Mr George Buckley's letter to me of 14 July 2010. As you requested in your letter of 23 July 2010, a copy of the response to Mr George Buckley was copied to you.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department to respond to the letter of 13 July 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay on a constituent, Mrs Morrision. [14718]

Nick Herbert: A reply was sent on 9 September 2010.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 7 July 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay on Councillor Frank Tomlin. [14756]

James Brokenshire: A reply was sent on 9 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 29 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Saddia Hamid. [15182]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 7 September 2010.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the proportion of police officers' time spent on administrative tasks. [13634]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Stratford-on-Avon (Nadhim Zahawi) on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7.

Police: Ports

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department had with *(a)* Dumfries and Galloway constabulary and *(b)* local agencies in Dumfries and Galloway prior to the decision to reduce UK Border Agency funding for ports police in Stranraer. [14316]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* The UK Border Agency (UKBA) officials have had ongoing discussions with the Scottish Justice Minister, the Chief Constable of Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, the Counter Terrorist Lead for Scotland and Scottish Government officials to inform them about UKBA support at West of Scotland ports.

Security: Expenditure

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was spent on security for all individuals and groups entitled to protection paid from the public purse in the last five financial years; [10726]

(2) how much her Department has spent on security for Tony Blair in each year since June 2007. [10856]

Nick Herbert: The Dedicated Security Post (DSP) grant provided by the Home Office is a contribution to fund specialist police roles which relate exclusively to the protection of members of the Royal Family and their residences; and the protection of public figures, and their official and private residences. In 2009-10, £132 million was spent under the DSP grant. For 2010-11, the DSP grant is £128 million.

Before 2009-10, the DSP grant also included a contribution to Special Branch policing at ports, counter-terrorism security advisers and policing of critical national infrastructure sites which are now funded by the counter-terrorism specific grant. An audited, disaggregated breakdown for the DSP spends is not available.

We do not provide detailed information regarding the allocation of the DSP grant to individual police forces, or the amount of contribution for each individual, or otherwise provide a further cost breakdown, as disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of these arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will arrange for the UK Border Agency to respond to the letter of 26 August 2010 from the hon. Member for Walsall North, reference R1117671. [14400]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 27 August 2010.

UK Border Agency: Training

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether security staff at UK Border Agency offices receive training in diversity and equality awareness; and what plans she has for future such training. [14361]

Damian Green: Yes. All security staff employed at UK Border Agency offices receive training in diversity and equality awareness.

We are currently reviewing the training given to security personnel to ensure that customer care standards are being met.

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre since it was rebuilt following fire damage; and how many children were in the family unit at Yarl's Wood on the latest date for which figures are available. [14030]

Damian Green: Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) re-opened in September 2003 and has provided accommodation for children who are part of a family group since January 2005. Information on the number of children detained at that centre from 2005 can be provided only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

In August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include management information on persons entering detention, total number of persons leaving detention and the number of families with children held in detention. This information is available by age (to separately identify children), and will be published quarterly in the future; however data for years earlier than 2009 will remain unavailable.

Between January 2009 and June 2010, 935 children entered Yarl's Wood IRC and were held solely under Immigration Act powers.

Published data, using rounding conventions to ensure that the identity of the individuals is safeguarded, show that as at 30 June 2010 there were less than three people detained solely under Immigration Act powers at Yarl's Wood removal centre who were recorded as being less than 18 years of age. This figure includes any cases where the age is disputed at the time.

Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers relating to the second quarter 2010 are available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April to June 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continue to work with their corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public body (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13929]

Mr Paterson: Following the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010, the period from 12 April to31 July 2010 is the latest period for which figures are available.

The information requested is shown in the following table for my Department and its Executive NDPB, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

Payments to suppliers

		Number
	NIO	*NDPB*
Within 30 days of date of invoice	3,623	194
Between 30 and 60 days of date of invoice	7	0
Between 61 and 90 days of date of invoice	0	0
Over 90 days after date of invoice	1	0

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his timetable is for implementing the local enterprise partnerships strategy; and if he will make a statement. [14640]

Mr Prisk: We received 58 outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships in response to the joint letter from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, dated 29 June.

Over the coming weeks Ministers will consider the proposals in detail, looking at how they will support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships ahead of the publication of the White Paper on sub-national economic growth and the introduction of the Localism Bill.

Business: East of England

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received representations from the East of England Space for Ideas Business Group on its Blueprint for Growth Action Plan. [14682]

Mr Davey: The Department has received two representations from the Chair of the East of England Space for Ideas Business Forum on its Blueprint for Growth Action Plan.

Business: Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses operating in Washington and Sunderland West constituency contacted Business Link during 2009-10. [14568]

Mr Prisk: The following table shows the total number of unique customers within the Washington and Sunderland West area that had meaningful interaction with the Business Link service during 2009/2010. This is then broken down into pre-starts, start-up and established businesses.

Customer Type	*Number of unique customers within Washington and Sunderland West*
Total	845
Pre-start	323
Start-Up	93
Established	429

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses operating in Washington and Sunderland West constituency received funding from one of his Department's schemes in 2009-10. [14569]

Mr Prisk: The following table shows the number of businesses supported in 2009/10 through the Government schemes Grant for Business Investment (GBI), and Grants for Research and Development (GRD) in Washington and Sunderland West constituencies.

	GBI	*GRD*	*Total*
Number of companies supported	21	5	26
Number of grant payments made	23	10	33
Value of grant payments made (*£*)	62,041	75,049	937,090

The following table shows the number of contracts issued to entrepreneurs and businesses by the North East Business Link service's North East England Investment Centre (NEEIC) and defrayed within the Washington and Sunderland West area during 2009/2010. This is then broken down into pre-start, start-ups and established businesses.

Customer Type	*Number investment contracts issued and defrayed within Washington and Sunderland West during 2009/10*	*Value of defrayed contracts within Washington and Sunderland West during 2009/10 (£)*
Total	80	289,683
Pre-start	33	91,262
Start-Up	17	39,556
Established	30	158,865

These schemes are delivered locally by the Regional Development Agency, One North East and Business and Enterprise North East.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13043]

Mr Davey: Since 2003, the Department and its predecessors spent the following amounts on reimbursement of staff expenses:

Calendar year	*Amount (£)*
2003	1,618,124
2004	1,979,416
2005	1,981,998
2006	1,681,870
2007	1,564,972
2008	1,695,507
2009	1,694,782
2010[1]	874,211

[1] To end August.

Since 2003, the ten largest claims in year are as follows:

£

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
1st	9,736.00	7,053.16	3,490.65	3,873.10	5,035.70	9,612.00	5,865.00	2,584.27
2nd	3,314.00	4,412.65	3,271.75	3,286.20	3,944.38	4,140.92	2,549.30	2,268.90
3rd	2,870.00	2,341.50	3,013.50	3,221.60	3,441.85	3,143.20	2,285.66	2,030.79
4th	2,573.00	2,325.60	2,832.61	3,112.46	3,144.70	2,937.86	2,272.58	1,901.46
5th	2,226.36	1,970.08	2,166.66	2,269.60	2,562.00	2,501.70	2,215.33	1,837.92
6th	1,998.70	1,728.00	2,087.90	2,166.66	2,500.70	2,440.25	2,115.75	1,627.72
7th	1,859.20	1,708.70	1,963.10	1,927.25	2,168.95	2,422.30	2,051.90	1,486.30
8th	1,808.99	1,704.70	1,922.00	1,927.25	2,010.45	2,395.59	2,000.35	1,453.40
9th	1,709.92	1,533.38	1,875.24	1,673.00	1,844.35	2,367.42	1,855.00	1,427.70
10th	1,696.70	1,508.74	1,696.95	1,658.30	1,694.70	2,034.00	1,805.05	1,364.89

Figures prior to 2003 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Industrial Disputes

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what sums were deducted from employee wages in *(a)* his Department and its predecessors, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* other public bodies within its area of responsibility as a result of strike action in each year since 1990; and how many such employees were dismissed as a result of such action in each such year. [13915]

Mr Davey: You may wish to note that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on Friday 5 June 2009 from the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) which ceased to exist from that date. Therefore, we have responded to your request as from that date.

The information is as follows:

(a) The BIS payroll system and those of its predecessors, does not record deductions for strike action as a separate code from other deductions. Therefore it is not possible to produce a report to distinguish deductions in relation to strike action, from other deductions.

(b) No one has been dismissed in BIS or any predecessor Departments for taking strike action.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 7 September 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 3 September 2010, UIN 13915 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House's financial records do not go back as far as 1997. For each year for which we have figures, the sums deducted from employee's wages as a result of strike action were as follows:

	£
2006-07	32,572
2008-09	[1]
2009-10	78,300

[1] Not applicable.

Companies House has never dismissed any employees as a result of strike action.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 September 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what sums were deducted from employee wages in (a) his Department and its predecessors, (b) its agencies and (c) other public bodies within its area of responsibility as a result of strike action in each year since 1990; and how many such employees were dismissed as a result of such action in each such year.

With regard to the question relating to what sums were deducted from employees' wages in The Insolvency Service as a result of strike action in each year since 1990, this information is not held centrally by the Insolvency Service and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Insolvency Service has not dismissed any employees as a result of strike action in each such year.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 7 September 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 03/09/2010 [reference 2010/1237] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking what sums were deducted from employee wages in as a result of strike action in each year since 1990; and how many employees were dismissed as a result of such action in each such year.

Our finance records show that there have been no stoppages for the last 7 financial years. Any records prior to April 2003 would have been destroyed in accordance with records management policy. However it is our understanding, based on the recollections of the Senior Management team here, that no employee of the NMO or its predecessor has been involved in strike action since at least 1992.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 9 September 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary question tabled on 3 September 2010 (UIN 13915). To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, what sums were deducted from employee wages in (a) his Department and its predecessors, (b) its agencies and (c) other public bodies within its area of responsibility as a result of strike action in each year since 1990; and how many such employees were dismissed as a result of such action in each such year.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010 and has not in the last 5 months had any strike action.

Letter from John Alty, dated 10 September 2010:

House of Commons Parliamentary Question: 2010/1237

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 03/09/2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The IPO has only been able to retrieve data from 2004. The breakdown shown below is based on days lost.

	£ deducted
2004	13,455
2007	14,552
2010	14,003

No employees have been dismissed as a result of taking part in strike action.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them taken by *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility. [12270]

Mr Davey: Young people are involved in policy development in a variety of ways across BIS, both through formal and regular meetings, and via more informal and ad hoc channels. Examples include the following:

In July we launched the Young Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network—a group of current and former apprentices, aged between 16-28—who feed their views and knowledge of Apprenticeships into the National Apprenticeship Service.

The National Union of Students (NUS) is involved in policy thinking on skills and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has recently appointed the NUS President as a formal Observer to their Board.

We are co-funding the Young People's Learning Agency Online Learner Panel during 2010-11. This is a new platform for learner engagement which allows policymakers quickly and effectively to access regionally and nationally representative views on policies and services. Ministers have endorsed official use of the panel and are currently considering its use for their own engagement with learners. The panel is available to all Government Departments and public bodies who wish to engage with learners.

We continue to look for opportunities to involve young people more in relevant areas of policy making—particularly those of higher education, further education and skills.

Employment

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that the UK retains a flexible labour market; and if he will make a statement. [14720]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to building on the UK's flexible labour market model. We will ensure that employment law plays its part in the Government's strategy for sustainable growth.

EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* for most of their time on the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [13781]

Mr Davey: The EU is relevant to a wide range of policy areas and to the work of many Government officials across HM Government Departments.

Within BIS, officials working specifically on EU business total around 135. In addition, there are also BIS seconded national experts working on priority policy areas in the European institutions in Brussels and on occasion other EU member states, currently around half a dozen.

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of export credits and other guarantees extended to businesses in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what proportion supported trade in *(a)* defence manufactured goods and services and *(b)* other goods and services. [15176]

Mr Davey: A list of the UK exporters supported by ECGD in 2009-10 is set out in the Department's annual review, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. The review is also available on ECGD's website.

In 2009-10 ECGD supported £2.21 billion of new business. Around 1% of this related to defence business.

Foreign Investment in UK: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of inward investment in Yorkshire and the Humber attributable to the work of *(a)* UK Trade and Investment and its predecessor bodies and *(b)* Yorkshire Forward since 1999. [13767]

Mr Prisk: From the financial year 1999/2000 to the financial year 2009/2010 inclusive a total of 717 foreign direct investment projects was recorded by UKTI (or its predecessor bodies) in the Yorkshire and Humber region. A total of 436 were assisted by some combination of Yorkshire Forward and UKTI (or predecessor), which breaks down as follows: (i) UKTI and Yorkshire Forward jointly: 91; (ii) UKTI alone: 58; (iii) Yorkshire Forward alone: 287.

HM Government funds the work of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) through the RDAs' Single Budget, which is administered by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. UKTI is one of the Government Departments which contributes to the RDAs' Single Budget. UKTI's contribution is specifically intended to fund the foreign direct investment work of the RDAs, including Yorkshire Forward, as part of the UKTI-led national effort. UKTI's estimated contribution to Yorkshire Forward in the financial years 1999/2000 to 2009/10 inclusive was £22.8 million, 14.7% of the total of £155.1 million paid by UKTI into the RDA's Single Budget during this period.

Free School Meals: Students

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pupils eligible for free school meals took up a place at each university in each year from 1995-96 to 2004-05. [14945]

Mr Willetts: The information requested is not available for the academic years specified.

Higher Education Funding Council for England: Operating Costs

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* administration and *(b)* running costs of the Higher Education Funding Council for England were in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [14107]

Mr Willetts: As published in the Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) Annual Report and Accounts for 2009-10, its total budget for administration was £18,560,000, of which £11,992,000 was for staffing costs. HEFCE spends 0.2% of its total budget on administration.

HEFCE's admin budget is stated each year in its published accounts. As a proportion of its overall budget its admin spend is much lower than other comparable bodies. As part of the Chancellor's statement on 24 March, HEFCE along with other BIS NDPBs has been asked to reduce its admin budget for 2010-11 by at least 11%.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which 20 universities admitted the highest *(a)* absolute number and *(b)* proportion of students from socio-economic classes four to seven in the latest period for which figures are available. [12130]

Mr Willetts: The 20 English higher education institutions which admitted the highest number and proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from socio-economic classes four to seven are shown in the tables. Figures are provided for the 2008/09 academic year and are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's performance indicators in higher education. Further information is available at the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

Performance indicators for the 2009/10 academic year should become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in April 2011.

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest number of young[1] UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from age-adjusted NS-SEC classes four to seven, academic year 2008/09

Institution	*Number*
Sheffield Hallam University	1,875
The Manchester Metropolitan University	1,730
The Nottingham Trent University	1,600
Leeds Metropolitan University	1,590
Liverpool John Moores University	1,330
The University of Manchester	1,330
De Montfort University	1,275
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	1,270
The University of Plymouth	1,270
University of Hertfordshire	1,225
University of the West of England, Bristol	1,180
Kingston University	1,175
The University of Leeds	1,130
The University of Greenwich	1,085
The University of Portsmouth	1,070
The University of Central Lancashire	1,055
Birmingham City University	985
The University of Huddersfield	925
The University of Birmingham	910
The University of Wolverhampton	895

[1] Refers to entrants aged under 21.

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
2. NS-SEC: National Statistics Socio-economic Classification.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) performance indicators in higher education in the UK, 2008/09.

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest percentage of young[1] UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from age-adjusted NS-SEC classes four to seven, academic year 2008/09

Institution	*Percentage*
Harper Adams University College	58.4
London Metropolitan University	57.5
The University of Greenwich	56.2
The University of Wolverhampton	53.8
The University of Bradford	52.9
Writtle College	52.9
The University of Bolton	52.3
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	51.2
University College Birmingham	50.5

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest percentage of young[1] UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from age-adjusted NS-SEC classes four to seven, academic year 2008/09

Institution	*Percentage*
The University of Teesside	50.4
London South Bank University	49.0
Thames Valley University	48.6
Middlesex University	48.1
Newman University College	47.6
University of Bedfordshire	47.5
University Campus Suffolk	47.5
The University of East London	46.9
Liverpool Hope University	45.8
Birmingham City University	45.2
University of Cumbria	44.9
The University of Sunderland	44.9

[1] Refers to entrants aged under 21.

Notes:

1. Percentages are given to one decimal place.

2. NS-SEC: National Statistics Socio-economic Classification.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) performance indicators in higher education in the UK, 2008/09.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what account he plans to take of the Aim Higher document entitled Research with Young People into Attitudes Towards the Possibility of Increases in HE Tuition Fees; and if he will make a statement. [13749]

Mr Willetts: Aimhigher Partnerships will, from time to time, research the views of young people on a range of issues to help inform the delivery of support and advice to young people. This report is a helpful contribution to the wider body of research in highlighting the importance of access to high quality information, which young people need to make well informed decisions about their futures.

The need to attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds into higher education is written into the coalition programme for government. Lord Browne, who will present proposals to Government this autumn following his independent review of higher education funding and student finance, has already stated that a guiding principle is to ensure that talent, rather than the ability to pay, determines participation in higher education. We will await Lord Browne's report and judge its proposals against the criteria set out in the coalition agreement.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of young people from the most deprived communities entering higher education in *(a)* Liverpool Wavertree constituency and *(b)* England in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [13751]

Mr Willetts: The numbers and proportions of young first degree entrants from low participation neighbourhoods to higher education institutions in England are provided in the table. Figures are provided for the 1997/98, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 academic years. The methodology used for calculating the numbers of entrants from low participation neighbourhoods changed in 2006/07 and, therefore, figures from 2006/07 onwards are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Young full-time first degree entrants[1] from low participation neighbourhoods. English higher education institutions. Academic years 1997/98, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09

Academic year	*Number*	*Percentage*
1997/98[2]	19,485	11.4
2005/06[2]	26,560	13.5
2006/07[3]	19,735	9.6
2007/08[3]	21,025	9.9
2008/09[3]	23,255	10.2

[1] Covers UK-domiciled entrants under the age of 21.

[2] Low participation neighbourhood (LPN) classified as an area which had a young higher education (HE) participation level which was less than two thirds of the national average young participation rate.

[3] LPN classification based on the bottom fifth of census area statistics wards when ranked by young HE participation rate.

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest five and percentages are provided to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) performance indicators in higher education

This is the latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) performance indicators in higher education. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year should become available from HESA in April 2011. More information about the HESA performance indicators can be found at the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

Constituency-level information on the numbers of young people from the most deprived communities who enter higher education is not available in existing HESA publications.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made by his Department on the continuance of the higher education sub-group of the cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism; what discussions he has had since July with members of the Jewish community about this group; and if he will make a statement. [R] [14350]

Mr Willetts: I have had no discussions since July on this issue but I am due to meet with representatives of the Jewish community and the HE sector to discuss the work of the BIS Anti-Semitism and HE Group.

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education, whether on campus or in student unions. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and has supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 320W, on higher education: finance, which budgetary headings will be affected by the £118 million reduction in the University Modernisation Fund in 2010-11. [12070]

Mr Willetts: The details of changes to the Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) budget for 2010-11 were set out in our letter of 26 June 2010. It is available on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/HEFCE/2010/grant1011/revised.htm

It represents an increase in HEFCE teaching grant compared with the budget for 2010-11 set out in the previous HEFCE grant letter of December 2009.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people were registered for study at a university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in May 2010. [13961]

Mr Willetts: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows in the 1997/98 academic year, there were 583,540 young (under 21) undergraduate students enrolled in UK higher education institutions. This compares to 788,745 in the 2008/09 academic year. Data for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

Higher Education: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands commenced study at a Russell Group University in each year since 1997. [14153]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

Entrants[1] to Russell Group Institutions from Coventry local authority[2] and West Midlands Government Office Region UK Higher Education Institutions: Academic Years 1997/98 to 2008/09

Academic Year	*Coventry*	*West Midlands*
1997/98	515	8,645
1998/99	530	8,645
1999/2000	520	9,150
2000/01	570	7,680
2001/02	660	11,100
2002/03	700	11,635
2003/04	740	9,565
2004/05	740	10,750
2005/06	810	10,415
2006/07	785	10,395
2007/08	1,215	11,160
2008/09	1,430	12,380

[1] Covers entrants to all levels and modes of study.

[2] Local authority data is derived from postcode and therefore excludes students
whose postcode information is either missing or invalid.

Notes:

Figures are based on 1 December snapshot and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Icelandic-Water Trawlermen Compensation Scheme

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many claims that were rejected under the re-opened Icelandic-Water Trawlermen Compensation Scheme were not successful because they did not meet revised qualification criteria. [14077]

Mr Davey: To date 631 claims have been successful under the new Icelandic water trawlermen compensation scheme and 2,650 have been unsuccessful, of which 1,510 were rejected because they did not meet the qualification criteria under the new scheme—in 568 cases the trawlerman did not have any service on Icelandic vessels on or after 1 January 1974 and in 942 cases the trawlerman did not have two years aggregate service on Icelandic vessels during the four years of the Cod Wars (1 January 1973 to 31 December 1976). We are still processing claims where probate is an issue and claims where limited or no evidence has been provided.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department allocated for the re-opened Icelandic-Water Trawlermen Compensation Scheme; how much of this allocation has been spent; and whether the surplus is still available pending *(a)* the outcome of appeals against determinations and *(b)* further investigation by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. [14078]

Mr Davey: The Department will continue to provide for and make whatever payments are necessary to meet claims under the 2009 compensation scheme. Payments made to end-August 2010 total £3.8 million.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the applicants for compensation under the Icelandic-Water Trawlermen Compensation Scheme listed in Annex C of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's Second Report, Session 2006-07, HC 313, have been awarded additional compensation under the revised scheme. [14113]

Mr Davey: Yes. All five of the claimants covered by the ombudsman's 2007 report have been awarded additional payments under the new scheme.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he had with former trawlermen prior to introducing the revised qualification criteria for the re-opened Icelandic-Water Trawlermen Compensation Scheme. [14114]

Mr Davey: The Department consulted widely on the scheme last year. The consultation exercise ran for 12 weeks and nearly 500 responses were received. The Government published a statement on the consultation exercise in June 2010 and a copy of this can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/employment-matters/strategies/trawlermen

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of rejected applications of the revisions to the qualifying criteria under the re-opened Icelandic-Water Trawlermen Compensation Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [14115]

Mr Davey: The Government believe that the new scheme delivers the Government's objective of compensating former trawlermen for the loss of their livelihoods following the Cod War Treaties of the 1970s, and that we have met in full the recommendations made by the parliamentary ombudsman in the 2007 report.

Details of the new scheme were set out clearly in our consultation paper last spring.

Industrial Disputes

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what categories of worker are prohibited from participating in industrial action; and if he will make a statement. [13916]

Mr Davey: Police officers, prison officers, members of the armed forces and merchant seamen (while at sea) are prohibited by statute or disciplinary regulations from participating in industrial action. Other workers' ability to strike may be limited by their contracts of employment and/or the terms of any collective agreement that is in place with respect to their employment.

The Government have no plans to change industrial action law.

Insolvency

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average time taken to settle a liquidation case was in the latest period for which figures are available; and whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals for a time limit on the settlement of such cases. [13601]

Mr Davey: Notifications of the conclusion of a liquidation are sent by liquidators to Companies House, and are publicly available. Companies House does not however collate statistics on the length of proceedings. Research conducted by the Insolvency Service and published in 2008 suggests that the average length of a liquidation is around 2 to 2.5 years.

I have no plans to bring forward legislative proposals for a time limit on the settlement of liquidation cases.

Languages: Higher Education

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students enrolled in foreign language courses at universities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* Brighton and Hove in each year from 2002 to 2009. [13719]

Mr Willetts: The number of students enrolled on modern foreign language courses at higher education institutions in England, the university of Sussex and the university of Brighton are shown in the table. The figures in the answer are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and are provided for the academic year 2002/03 to 2008/09. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from HESA in January 2011.

Enrolments[1] in modern foreign languages[2] at higher education institutions in England[3], the university of Sussex and the university of Brighton, academic year 2002/03 to 2008/09

Academic year	*England*	*University of Sussex*[4]	*University of Brighton*[4]
2002/03	47,420	355	940
2003/04	45,625	370	845
2004/05	43,830	395	715
2005/06	46,170	385	740
2006/07	45,390	370	825
2007/08	41,715	410	465
2008/09	40,455	405	450

[1] Covers postgraduate and undergraduate students of all domiciles enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Covers: French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and European, and European studies. Chinese, Japanese, South Asian, Other Asian, African, Modern Middle Eastern, American and Australasian studies.

[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of subjects across the time series.

[4] Includes foreign language enrolments in French, German, Italian and Spanish studies.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Further Education

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which of the proposals for local enterprise partnerships received by his Department to date include further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [15166]

Mr Davey: We received 58 outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships in response to the joint letter from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, dated 29 June.

The proposals received identify the variety of challenges facing individual local economies and put forward innovative ways of tackling them—reflecting the importance of allowing local areas to determine their own economic development and drive private sector job growth. Proposed partnerships include a range of bodies, including colleges and universities as well as other organisations.

Partnerships are being encouraged to publish their proposals on their respective websites.

Public Sector: Collective Bargaining

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what collective bargaining agreements are in operation in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [12954]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

In central Government, for grades below the senior civil service, each Department determines the pay arrangements that suit their business needs (within Treasury and Cabinet Office guidance on public sector pay policy) and separately negotiates the details of these proposals with unions representing their employees.

In local government, the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, made up of employer and trade union representatives, determines the pay and terms of conditions of employment for most local government services' workers. Negotiations are based on an agreed national framework with potential for local modification to suit local service requirements. A number of councils have opted out of the national framework and pursue their own local collective bargaining agreements.

Regional Development Agencies: Redundancy

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in what monetary range he expects severance payments made to staff in regional development agencies to fall. [15038]

Mr Prisk: Any severance payments will be made in accordance with the Civil Service Compensation Scheme that is in place at the time staff are made redundant through the transition phase across the regional development agencies until closure.

Changes to the Compensation Scheme, which will determine the terms of any severance package to staff, are currently being debated in the House and will be introduced if it obtains Royal Assent.

The monetary value is difficult to determine at this point in time; severance payments are dependent on individual lengths of service and the terms appropriate to exits when they take place.

Regulation: Public Opinion

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the public will be able to challenge the worst regulations applicable to organisations other than businesses. [14966]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister launched the Your Freedom website in July this year. This website provided the public with the opportunity to challenge regulations on civil liberties, unnecessary laws and those impacting business and civil society organisations.

The Your Freedom website received over 14,000 suggestions concerning a wide range of organisations. These ideas are now being considered by officials across the Government and relate to a wide range of issues, organisations and sectors.

This Department's particular focus is to encourage growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in business. We are running a programme of regional dialogue meetings to directly engage SMEs about potential solutions to particular regulations that impact on them.

Royal Mail: Privatisation

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether it is his policy to pursue a stock market flotation for Royal Mail. [14970]

Mr Davey: The coalition agreement committed the Government to seek to inject private capital into Royal Mail, including opportunities for employee ownership. The Postal Services Bill, to enable the introduction of private capital, was subsequently included in the Queen's Speech. No decisions have yet been taken on the method of selling shares in Royal Mail.

Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he made of the cost to the Exchequer of insuring a loan of £80 million to Sheffield Forgemasters. [15219]

Mr Davey: A robust estimate of the cost to the Exchequer of insuring a loan of £80 million to Sheffield Forgemasters would have been part of the commercial and financial due-diligence that would have been carried out had the Government been in a position to progress the loan.

Small Businesses: Government Assistance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of Government assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in the form of *(a)* grants, *(b)* tax reliefs, *(c)* investment allowances and *(d)* other financial assistance. [14888]

Mr Davey: The Department makes regular assessments of the effectiveness of non-tax related programmes which provide financial assistance to small and medium-sized businesses.

Recent evaluations have included:

Economic evaluation of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) scheme (2010)

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file54112.doc

Early stage assessment of the impact of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) on Recipient Firms (2010)

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file54076.doc

Early assessment of the impact of BIS equity fund initiatives (2010)

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/e/10-1037-early-assessment-bis-equity-fund-initiatives

Solutions for Business: cross-product monitoring survey (2010)

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/s/10-1075-solutions-for-business-survey-june-2010

Grant for business investment (in England, tables 1 and 2): 1 October to 31 December 2009

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/regional/docs/g/09-p76d-grant-business-investment-oct-dec-2009

Early assessment of Business Link Health Checks (2009)

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53743.doc

RVCF and EGF interim evaluation: recipient business and stakeholder surveys (2009)

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53943.doc

and

Qualitative Research Paper

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file53944.doc

UK Strategic Investment Fund: interim report (2009)

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file53157.pdf

Further details of these and other relevant studies are available on the Publications page of the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/publications

HMRC has responsibility for evaluating tax related reliefs which benefit small businesses.

Recent evaluations include:

Study of the Impact of Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCT) on company performance (2008)

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report44.pdf

Further details of these and other relevant studies are available on the Research Page of the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/index.htm

Finally, as tax is a matter for HM Treasury, the Chancellor has also asked the Office of Tax Simplification to carry out two initial reviews, which cover tax reliefs and small business tax simplification. This Department has offered assistance to the Office to help them carry out this important work.

Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the small firms loan guarantee scheme. [15304]

Mr Davey: In January, the Department published the Economic Evaluation of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee undertaken by the Institute of Employment Studies.

This study rigorously tested the effectiveness and value for money of SFLG and concludes that the basic rationale for SFLG is supported and that it appears to be a cost-effective way of supporting additional economic activity in the small business sector.

More specifically:

The majority (81%) of SFLG recipients receive SFLG on their first loan application.

For a majority (76%) of SFLG recipients, there were no alternative sources of finance available to them.

This is confirmed by 79% of SFLG recipients reporting the bank would probably, or definitely not, have given them a loan without SFLG.

Just under half (49%) of businesses would definitely, or probably not, have proceeded with their project without SFLG.

A growth in sales, jobs and exports is attributable to SFLG supported lending within the first two years of the loan. The 3,100 SFLG supported businesses in 2006 have created between 3,550 to 6,340 additional jobs in the two years following receipt of the loan, created between £75 million and £150 million additional sales over two years; and were responsible for £33 million exports per annum.

Just within two years of receiving the loan the benefits of the scheme are outweighing the costs.

SFLG appears to be a particularly cost effective way of creating additional employment.

The full report is available via the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file54112.doc

The Small Firms Loan Guarantee was replaced by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee in January 2009.

South East England Development Agency: Advertising

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the South East England Development Agency provided for the Mapping British Business South East advertorial supplement published in *The Times* newspaper on 25 August 2010. [15045]

Mr Davey: None.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12986]

Mr Davey: Since 2003 the Department and its predecessors have spent the following amounts on taxis:

Calendar year	*Amount (£)*
2003	52,623
2004	195,039
2005	185,531
2006	162,367
2007	200,434
2008	272,317
2009	275,614
2010[1]	110,349

[1] To end August.

Figures prior to 2003 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 14 September 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the rate of deportations of *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* illegal immigrants by the UK Border Agency was in each of the last 12 months; [13209]

(2) what the rate of deportations of children of *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* illegal immigrants has been in each of the last 12 months. [13210]

Damian Green: We have interpreted "deportations" to mean "removals" and "illegal immigrants" to mean "non asylum offenders".

We have interpreted children to mean a dependant of a main applicant who is under 18 so have not included figures in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Table 1 shows the latest published statistics for asylum cases and non asylum cases removed from the UK in each month during the period July 2009 to June 2010.

Table 2 shows internal management information for the number of dependants (under 18) of failed asylum seekers and non-asylum offenders that were removed from the UK in each month during the period July 2009 to June 2010.

Table 1: Total cases removed or departed voluntarily from the United Kingdom, excluding non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[1, 2, 3] [4] July 2009 to June 2010

	Total asylum cases	*Non-asylum cases*	*Total removals*
July 2009	1,025	2,115	3,140
August 2009	1,010	2,250	3,260
September 2009	1,005	2,550	3,555
October 2009	920	2,535	3,455
November 2009	995	2,685	3,680
December 2009	855	2,525	3,380
January 2010	900	2,565	3,465
February 2010	920	2,480	3,400
March 2010	1,050	2,285	3,335
April 2010	690	2,250	2,940
May 2010	855	2,675	3,530
June 2010	835	2,370	3,200
Total	11,060	29,285	40,340

[1] Figures are provisional, rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Includes persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[4] Excludes non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed.

Table 2: Total dependants under 18 removed or departed voluntarily from the United Kingdom, excluding non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed, July 2009 to June 2010

	FAS dependants (under 18)	*Non-asylum dependants (under 18)*	*Total removals*
July 2009	39	150	189
August 2009	41	101	142
September 2009	31	121	152
October 2009	44	128	172
November 2009	56	111	167
December 2009	39	91	130
January 2010	35	101	136
February 2010	37	88	125
March 2010	52	73	125
April 2010	31	80	111
May 2010	36	99	135
June 2010	11	94	105
Total	452	1,237	1,689

Notes:

1. Failed Asylum Seeker (FAS)—Where an asylum application has been refused and all appeal rights exhausted during this period of stay in the UK (whether leave to enter/remain was extant or not)
2. Non asylum offender (NAO)—any other person subject to immigration controls in breach of their given leave to enter/remain. Overstayers and all other categories except Asylum Seekers.
3. Age calculated as at date of removal
4. All data subject to CID data quality issues.
5. All data is subject to continual reconciliation and cleansing; treated as Management Information only within UKBA.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the UK Border Agency on the effect on *(a)* the management of deportation of families seeking asylum and *(b)* the number of deportations of the decision no longer to detain families scheduled for deportation. [14050]

Mrs May: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. I am having ongoing discussions with the UK Border Agency about how this can be achieved in a way which promotes the welfare of children while ensuring the return of families who have no right to be in the UK.

Borders: Personal Records

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects on the e-borders programme of not proceeding with second generation biometric passports; and if she will make a statement. [14133]

Mrs May *[holding answer 7 September 2010]:* I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the response I gave him on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 525W.

British Citizenship

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she intends to implement the provisions in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 in respect of the pathway to citizenship. [13665]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* I believe that broad reform to the path to settlement and citizenship is necessary and I am currently considering the best way to achieve that. Applicants for British citizenship continue to be considered under the current requirements contained in the British Nationality Act 1981.

Departmental Payments

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13926]

Nick Herbert: Invoice payment information for the Home Department, inclusive of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies, for paying suppliers in the latest periods for which figures are available is as follows:

	Period	*(i) Within 30 days*	*(ii) 31 to 60 days*	*(iii) 61 to 90 days*	*(iv) Over 90 days*
(a) Home Office Head Quarters	August 2010	1,843	73	19	24
(b) Criminal Records Bureau	August 2010	212	23	9	1
(b) Identity and Passport Service	August 2010	946	8	1	0
(b) UK Border Agency	August 2010	4,715	115	52	85
(c) Independent Police Complaints Commission	August 2010	296	0	0	0
(c) Independent Safeguarding Authority	August 2010	130	0	0	0
(c)The National Police Improvement Agency	August 2010	891	276	94	104
(c) The Office of the Immigration Service Commission	August 2010	9	0	0	0
(c) Security Industry Authority	August 2010	152	3	0	0
(c) The Serious Organised Crime Agency	30 July to 3 September	1,772	340	149	108

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13480]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office finance system does not separately identify the cost of individual hospitality events hosted by individual Ministers from overall hospitality costs. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DNA Database

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to bring forward legislative proposals to limit the retention of DNA profiles taken from those arrested but not convicted; for how long from the point of arrest she proposes that profiles of those arrested but not convicted in cases deemed serious should be retained before removal; and by what date she expects existing DNA profiles of those arrested but not convicted in cases not deemed serious to have been removed from the database. [14384]

James Brokenshire: The Government will bring forward proposals in the Freedom Bill later this autumn to adopt the protections of the Scottish model.

This will mean that DNA from the un-convicted is only held in the case of those arrested for serious offences—and then only for a limited period of three years, extendable for two years with the approval of a court. DNA taken in respect of those arrested for but not convicted of a minor offence will not be retained. Further details will be announced to the House in due course.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 632W, on DNA: databases, if she will estimate the number of DNA matches made with the National DNA Database since 4 December 2008 in respect of individuals whose DNA profiles would have been removed from the database by the changes proposed by the Government in light of the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper. [14458]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not available.

Domestic Violence

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to engage with specialist frontline service's and women's sector organisations to ensure women fleeing violence can access effective support. [13986]

James Brokenshire: There is currently a range of work streams across Government Departments to ensure that partners and frontline services are engaged. The Government provide funding for a number of victim services and works with the women's sector to deliver these. The Home Office has already committed over £8 million in 2010-11 to support some of these key services.

The Government are currently considering their approach to tackling violence against women and girls and a new strategy will be delivered in the spring.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the scheme allowing women in the UK on spousal visas to access refuge accommodation for a fixed period of time; whether she plans to extend that scheme; and if she will make a statement. [14436]

James Brokenshire: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009 and was scheduled to run to the end of August 2010. On 16 July, the Home Secretary announced an extension to the pilot until the end of March 2011 and a commitment to find a long-term funding solution to the issue. The pilot is monitored on a monthly basis and a full evaluation will take place following completion of the pilot.

EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* for most of their time on the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [13782]

James Brokenshire: The negotiation, implementation and administration of EU legislation and policies impacts on most areas of Home Office responsibility and is consequently integrated into the work of Department officials. In addition, within the Department about 30 members of staff work full-time on EU policy with the EU institutions and member states, with a particular focus on justice and home affairs.

Female Genital Mutilation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to strengthen enforcement of legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation; and if she will make a statement. [14879]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The Government are committed to developing a strategy to tackle violence against women and girls and this will include female genital mutilation. Legislation alone cannot eliminate the practice so our resources will be aimed at raising awareness of the law on female genital mutilation and the health implications with communities and front-line practitioners.

Offensive Weapons: Internet

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to ensure that illegal weapons are not purchased in the UK via the internet; and if she will make a statement. [11151]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The UK has some of the toughest firearms laws in the world.

UK Border Agency are responsible for intercepting and seizing a wide range of prohibited and restricted goods at the border, including firearms and other weapons, their parts and ammunition. International parcel and courier post are targeted because they are assessed as a high risk for delivery of weapons bought over the internet. In addition, the Association of Chief Police Officers lead a multi-agency programme under the UK organised crime control strategy which aims to detect, deter and disrupt the acquisition, use and trafficking of firearms by organised criminals. This includes activity with UK and international partners focussing on internet sales of firearms, replica firearms, ammunition and component parts.

In the case of knives, in 2009, 21 major retailers signed up to a six point plan to tackle under-age knife sales. A particular concern was online retail sales, and the majority of these major retailers removed online sales of knives from their websites.

Police: EU Countries

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by police forces in the UK on evidence-gathering for police forces of other EU member states in the last three years. [14714]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* UK police forces do not have specific officers who deal solely with these requests. Each request is different and will be executed by different police officers. Consequently, neither the Home Office nor individual police forces have such information available.

Police: Finance

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of funding for each police force was *(a)* provided from central Government *(b)* raised locally and *(c)* raised from other sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [14035]

Nick Herbert: The amount of funding provided from central Government and raised locally is available from the following web link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-finance/

Information on funding from other sources is not held centrally but can be found in the 2008-09 actuals or 2009-10 estimate statistics from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Police: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police community support officers, *(b)* uniformed officers and *(c)* civilian staff have been recruited by Kent Police in each year since 2000. [15116]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following table:

PCSOs, police officers and police staff joiners[1] in Kent[2] 1999-2000 to 2009-10[3]

Financial year	*Police community support officers[4, 5]*	*Police officers[6]*	*Police staff[5, 7]*
1999-2000	—	174	—
2000-01	—	269	—
2001-02	—	286	—
2002-03	—	370	291
2003-04	5	326	544
2004-05	42	225	382
2005-06	10	257	385
2006-07	109	274	331
2007-08	217	205	329
2008-09	95	268	404
2009-10	44	166	297

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[1] Figures include the following types of joiners: 'Standard Direct', 'Rejoining', 'Previously Special' and 'Transfer'.
[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures for Kent. They have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[3] Figures prior to 2002-03 are not comparable with figures after that date. Prior to 2002-03 transfers were excluded from joiner figures. Also prior to 2002-03 figures are on a headcount basis.
[4] Police community support officers (PCSOs) came into operation in September 2002, therefore figures are not available prior to 2003-04.
[5] Figures for PCSOs and police staff are provisional and have not been verified by forces.
[6] Figures for uniformed officers are not collected therefore figures for police officers have been provided.
[7] Police staff includes designated officers but excludes police community support officers and traffic wardens.
[8] Figures for police staff joiners are not available prior to 2002-03. Prior to 2002-03 transfers were excluded from joiner figures and figures for joiners were on a headcount as opposed to a full-time equivalent basis.
Note:
Prior to 2002-03 transfers were excluded from joiner figures and figures for joiners were on a headcount as opposed to a full-time equivalent basis.

Police: Pay

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers in Essex will have their pay frozen as a result of the decision to freeze the wages of public sector workers. [4565]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary announced at the 2010 Police Federation Conference that the Government would honour the remainder of the three-year pay deal for police officers, which ends on 31 August 2011. Thereafter the Government's policy is to freeze the pay of public sector workers earning over £21,000 for two years. We would expect this to apply to police officers, taking account of any recommendations from the Police Negotiating Board.

Police: Reform

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to *(a)* improve the efficiency and productivity of police forces in England and Wales, *(b)* reform police working practices and *(c)* reduce the administrative burden on police forces. [11054]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 July 2010]:* The steps that the Government plan to make on all of these issues were announced by the Home Secretary on 26 July 2010 and are set out in a consultation paper "Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People". A copy can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/policing-21st-century/

Public Order Act 1986: Arrests

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted of a criminal offence under Part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986 in each year from 2006 to 2010. [13683]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separately identify offences under part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986.

Figures provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986 in each year from 2006 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Charging data are not held on the Ministry of Justice's proceedings database. Figures for those proceeded against at magistrates courts are provided in lieu of these.

Figures for 2009 will be published in Criminal Statistics for England and Wales 2009 on 21 October 2010. Figures for 2010 the autumn of 2011.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty[1, 2] at all courts for offences relating to part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986[3], England Wales, 2006-08[4]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2006	13	7
2007	12	9
2008[4]	14	14

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations ere taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions have been used:
Public Order Act 1986 S.18
Use of words or behaviour or display of written material intended or likely to stir up racial hatred
Public Order Act 1986 S.19
Publishing or distributing written material intended or likely to stir up racial hatred
Public Order Act 1986 S.20
Public performance of play intended or likely to stir up racial hatred
Public Order Act 1986 S.21
Distributing, showing or playing a recording intended or likely to stir up racial hatred
Public Order Act 1986 S.22
Broadcasting or including a programme in programme service intended or likely to stir up racial hatred
Public Order Act 1986 S.23
Possession of a racially inflammatory piece of material
Public Order Act 1986 S.29B
Using words or behaviour or display of written material (acts intended to stir up religious hatred)
Public Order Act 1986 S.29C
Publishing or distributing written material (acts intended to stir up religious hatred)
Public Order Act 1986 S.29D
Public performance of a play (acts intended to stir up religious hatred)
Public Order Act 1986 S.29E
Distributing, showing or playing a recording (acts intended to stir up religious hatred)
Public Order Act 1986 S.29F(1) and (2)(a)
Provider of programme broadcasting or including programme in programme service (acts intended to stir up religious hatred)
Public Order Act 1986 S.29F(1) and (2)(b)
Producer or Directorate of programme broadcasting or including programme in programme service (acts intended 10 stir up religious hatred)
Public Order Act 1986 S.29F(1)(2)(c)
Person using offending words or behaviour—broadcasting or including programme in programme service (acts intended to stir up religious hatred)
Public Order Act 1986 S.29G
Possessing inflammatory material (acts intended to stir up religious hatred)
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Smuggling: Wildlife

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects the UK border police force to take steps to reduce the level of smuggling and illegal trade in wildlife under her proposals for that police force. [10886]

Nick Herbert: The Coalition programme for government includes a commitment to establish a border police force to enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on the trafficking of people, wildlife, weapons and drugs.

Terrorism Legislation

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who she plans to consult as part of the review of anti-terror legislation. [9706]

Nick Herbert: The arrangements for the review of counter-terrorism and security powers were announced to Parliament on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-809.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made clear in that announcement that the Government want the review to be conducted as openly and as transparently as possible. Independent oversight of the review will be provided by Lord Macdonald of River Glaven who will ensure that the review is properly conducted, that all the relevant options have been considered and that the recommendations of the review are fair and balanced.

We have also asked Liberty to contribute to the review and are similarly keen to involve civil liberty, human rights, law and community organisations from across the United Kingdom. The review will be conducted by the Home Office with the full involvement of the police, security and intelligence agencies and other Government Departments including those in Scotland and Northern Ireland. We would also welcome anyone with an interest to submit their views to the Home Office. Contributions to the review should be sent to:

david.ford@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 8 June 2010, on the Terrorism Act 2000 (Section 44), what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(c)* the Metropolitan Police Service on the content of her Statement prior to its delivery. [8166]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 July 2010]*: Home Office Ministers and officials acting on their behalf discussed the approach to section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in the light of the European Court of Human Rights' judgment with the Police Service for Northern Ireland, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Metropolitan Police Service. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary also spoke to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Those discussions informed the content of the statement delivered by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 540-48.

Vetting

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her review of the vetting and barring scheme to report. [13678]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 September 2010]*: A further announcement on the terms of reference for the review is expected shortly. It is anticipated that the review will report by December 2010.

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the likely effects on Wales of her Department's planned spending reductions. [8991]

Nick Herbert: No departmental expenditure limits (DELs) have yet been set for the years after 2010-11. DELs for the four years from 2011-12 will be set in the spending review on 20 October 2010.

With regard to the impact of the planned spending reductions in 2010-11 on Wales, I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 229W.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Climate Change

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to respond to the December 2009 report of the Committee on Climate Change on meeting the UK Aviation Target. [15211]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 370W.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future provision of funding by his Department for concessionary bus travel for *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* disabled people and *(c)* young people. [14101]

Norman Baker: The Government's commitment to protect key benefits for older people, such as free bus travel, is set out in the Coalition Agreement. The Government are looking to make further savings in the scheme through administrative and reimbursement reform, which will be considered as part of the spending review.

The Department for Transport has no current plans to provide funding for concessionary bus travel for young people though it remains open to individual local authorities to make local provision if they wish to do so.

Cycling

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the development of cycle hubs at each of the 10 railway stations for which they are planned. [15252]

Mrs Villiers: The first of the 10 planned cycle hubs opened in Leeds on a trial basis on 18 August 2010. The 'CyclePoint' will officially open for business on 27 September 2010.

The Cycle-Rail Integration Task Force has been assessing the remaining nine cycle hub locations. They have been considering likely levels of usage and the arrangements to be made at different sized locations. The further implementation of plans is dependent on the outcome of the spending review.

Cycling: Business

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employers have participated in the cycle to work scheme in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [13324]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of employers participating in the Cycle to Work scheme. The scheme is the responsibility of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13306]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's staff are personally liable for any transport related fines that they may incur; the Department would only settle such a fine in the most exceptional circumstances.

Driving: Safety

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met representatives of the Institute of Advanced Motorists to discuss the contribution to road safety of continuous post-test training for all road users; and if he will make a statement. [14701]

Mike Penning: I met Institute of Advanced Motorists to talk about various aspects of driver training in July. The Driving Standards Agency also has a long-standing working relationship with them in connection with their advanced driving products.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment of the impact on the electric powered vehicles market of the level and quantity of subsidies set by his Department for the purchase of such vehicles, as compared with the plans of the previous Government, was undertaken prior to their announcement. [14374]

Norman Baker: On 28 July, the Secretary of State confirmed that the plug-in car grant would go ahead from January 2011, providing subsidy for qualifying ultra-low emission vehicles of 25% of the purchase price, up to a maximum of £5,000.

The Secretary of State considered a range of evidence before concluding that there is a clear case for supporting the early market in ultra-low emission vehicles. This will deliver a number of strategic benefits to the UK interest: ensuring that we make meaningful reductions in emissions from road transport; supporting growth and job-creation in the green economy; and strengthening our position in relation to security of energy supply.

The level of the subsidy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the UK remains competitive and taxpayers get value for money. The first review will be in January 2012, at which point the level will be set for subsequent years.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which criteria will be used in the review of the subsidies for the sale of electric powered vehicles announced by his Department in July 2010. [14375]

Norman Baker: On 28 July, the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed that motorists will receive up to £5,000 towards the purchase of an ultra-low carbon car from January 2011.

The grant is confirmed as 25% of the value of the car up to a maximum of £5,000 up to the end of March 2012. A commitment beyond 2011-12 has not yet been made and decisions around future funding will be confirmed as part of the Spending Review.

The level of incentive will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the UK remains competitive and taxpayers get value for money. The first review will be in January 2012, after which point the level will be set for subsequent years. Criteria to be used in this review have not yet been set, however, a number of factors will be taken into account, such as the cost of vehicles and the development of the early market.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is the policy of his Department to install *(a)* up to 2,500 plug-in points for use by electric powered vehicles by April 2011 and *(b)* up to 11,000 points over the next three years via the plug-in places scheme. [14376]

Norman Baker: On 28 July 2010, the coalition Government confirmed that the plugged-in places electric vehicle infrastructure programme would continue. The £8.8 million awarded to London, Milton Keynes and the North East for this financial year to support their plans to install up to 2,500 charge points remains available.

Funding for a second round of projects will be determined subject to the outcome of the Spending Review. The number of charge points installed over the life of the programme will depend upon the number and size of projects successful in any second round of funding.

Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the Noise Action Plan for Heathrow Airport will include a 55dB(A) Lden noise level target; [13904]

(2) whether the European Commission has agreed that the Noise Action Plan for Heathrow Airport does not have to be revised until 2015; [13905]

(3) when he plans to publish the Noise Action Plan for Heathrow Airport. [13906]

Mrs Villiers: Following submission of Heathrow airport's draft noise action plan, officials from both the Department for Transport and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) met with airport representatives to discuss the draft. As a result, Heathrow airport is currently preparing a revised plan for further consideration. Once the plan has been formally adopted by Government, it will be published on both DEFRA's and the airport's website by the end of 2010.

The Noise Action Plans are required by EC law to cover a five-year period. The scope for the second stage of implementation of EC directive 2002/49 (the environmental noise directive) has yet to be determined.

Major airports in England have been encouraged to include an annual review as part of their plan rather than reviewing the plan after five years. In the case of Heathrow, the airport is also proposing to make the plan subject to independent audit.

Airports were required to produce strategic noise maps covering a range of metrics including Lden. While the directive requires airports to include provisions for evaluating the effect of actions proposed in the plan, there is no specific requirement for an Lden target. However Heathrow, in common with other airports, is understood to be considering the use of annual and forecast noise contours as an evaluation measure.

London Airports: Night Flying

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what timescale he has set for his Department's consultation on the night flying restrictions for Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted for the period 2012 to 2017; [15206]

(2) whether the night flying restrictions for Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted for the period 2012 to 2017 will include measures to reduce the effects of night noise on local communities in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation. [15207]

Mrs Villiers: There have been restrictions on night flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted for many years. The Government fully recognise the importance of the protections afforded by these restrictions for communities affected by airport noise. The restrictions are subject to periodic review. The current regime introduced in June 2006 runs until October 2012. An announcement about the scope of proposals for post 2012 arrangements will be made in due course.

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of adding Luton to the controlled night noise regime for London airports by making it a designated airport. [15208]

Mrs Villiers: The Government fully recognise the importance of the need to protect communities affected by aircraft noise. Noise control measures including restrictions on night flights at the three London strategic airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) have been in place for many years. Elsewhere we believe that airports should engage actively with their communities in determining what noise control measures provide the right local solution. This process has recently been strengthened by the requirement for airports to develop and publish noise action plans in consultation with communities living around airports. These plans and the associated consultation process will play a central role in ensuring that airports mitigate against noise at a local level.

Network Rail: Lincoln

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Network Rail on measures to mitigate the effect of increased level crossing closures on Lincoln High Street through funding of (i) a replacement pedestrian footbridge and (ii) the proposed east-west relief road. [14920]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers and officials communicate regularly with Network Rail. The operation of the level crossing on Lincoln high street is an operational matter for Network Rail.

Network Rail has advised Department for Transport officials that the company is aware that current proposals to increase freight capacity through Lincoln will have an impact on the level crossing. I have been informed that Network Rail is working closely with Lincolnshire county council on this issue and will continue to work with all parties to achieve an appropriate solution.

Official Cars

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the last spot check was made on Ministerial cars running their engines for heating or cooling purposes on the Parliamentary Estate; and what the findings of this spot check were. [14823]

Mike Penning: The Government Car and Despatch Agency reminds its drivers regularly, through internal notices, that it is unacceptable to park on the parliamentary estate with their engines running. However, spot checks are not carried out.

Road Traffic

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost of traffic congestion to business. [13852]

Norman Baker: The 2006 Eddington Study estimated the costs imposed by congestion to business and other travellers, using the Department for Transport's National Transport Model. It was found that the direct costs to business of congestion in England were approximately £7 billion (in 2003, at 2002 prices). This figure is based on the difference between the actual time taken to make a journey and the time that would be taken under theoretical 'free- flow' conditions. It does not necessarily represent the net benefit that would result from removing congestion.

The study report is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/researchannexes/

South Eastern Trains: Correspondence

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to reply to South Eastern Trains' inquiry regarding franchise conditions and the partial closure of the platform 4 exit at Lewisham station. [14916]

Mrs Villiers: Southeastern submitted a modification proposal relating to the permanent closure of the platform 4 entrance at Lewisham station during July 2009. The company subsequently withdrew their proposal stating they would submit a new one once the Access for All Scheme major improvements and the station gating scheme at Lewisham station were completed. No further proposal has yet been received.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what guidance he has issued to local authorities on the removal of static road safety camera shells since 12 May 2010; [12107]

(2) what his policy is on the use of road safety cameras. [12108]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* The Coalition's programme for government made a commitment to:

> 'stop central Government funding for new fixed speed cameras and switch to more effective ways of making our roads safer'.

On 24 June I wrote to all local authorities in England and Wales explaining how I planned to implement this policy, and the Government's wider position on speed enforcement. My letter and the programme for government are both available in the Libraries of the House.

Local authorities remain free to fund current and future camera operations from their own resources, if they believe that this approach delivers safety improvements in the most effective way.

Camera operations will have a continuing role, but we want to see authorities considering the potential of the full range of local road safety interventions, including educational and engineering solutions.

No guidance has been issued to local authorities on the removal of static road safety camera shells since 12 May 2010.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cereal Prices

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the level of global grain prices and *(b)* its implications for his Department's policies; and if he will make a statement. [15173]

Mr O'Brien: The international wheat price has increased in recent weeks due to supply fears following poor harvests in southern Russia and Ukraine. It now stands at around $250 a tonne. The price of maize has also risen recently. The price of rice has come down lately following good harvests in major supplier countries.

The poor wheat harvest in southern Russia and Ukraine will only reduce global production by about 3%. World stocks of the main cereals commodities remain healthy, and the international prices of wheat and maize should reflect these conditions as markets adjust to these underlying factors.

The Department for International Development is working to increase global food security by helping to improve sustainable agricultural production in developing countries, and by seeking to raise the incomes of the poorest and most vulnerable people. We will continue to support humanitarian operations in those countries in greatest need. At the same time, we are working to make the international trading system function more effectively, to enable shortfalls in one region to be balanced by surpluses in others.

China: Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the continuation of the UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue after 2011. [14488]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

We will be considering our future approach to the Sustainable Development Dialogue with China once the result of the Government's spending review is known. This will involve considering options for future engagement that offer best value for money and are in line with broader Government objectives for relations with emerging powers such as China.

Developing Countries: Malaria

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to reduce malaria mortality in countries where there is limited access to health workers. [14683]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for international Development (DFID) is currently developing its plans on how best to tackle malaria mortality in high burden countries. DFID will focus on increasing the use of interventions which work for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria, and will work to ensure that coverage extends to the most vulnerable, especially through prevention services like insecticide treated bednets.

We want to ensure that our impact is sustainable by strengthening health services and national capacity to deliver malaria interventions. As a component of this health systems strengthening, DFID funding supports the training and deployment of health care workers through our bilateral programmes, direct support to national health plans of partner countries, and our funding to multilateral organisations and global funding instruments such as the World Bank, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which *(a)* countries and *(b)* regions his Department's maternal and newborn health programme aims to reach marginalised populations. [15005]

Mr O'Brien: Improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health programmes are major priorities for the Coalition Government and are central to the Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews currently under way. These reviews are due to report in early 2011 and they will inform our decisions on all future health programmes at both country and regional level.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is also developing a new business plan for reproductive, maternal and newborn health. A 12-week public consultation, to invite views on where DFID should be concentrating its efforts, ends on 20 October.

Food Supply

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the level of security of global food supplies; and if he will make a statement. [14425]

Mr O'Brien: At a global level, physical supplies of all the main cereals remain secure. 2010 is likely to produce the world's third largest cereals harvest ever. Food stocks, following two years of excellent harvests, remain high, at around 23% of annual consumption.

This summer's drought in Russia and Ukraine has significantly reduced the size of the harvest there, but this is only likely to reduce global wheat production by about 3% compared with earlier forecasts. The international price of wheat has risen steeply since June, reflecting current market concerns about possible shortfalls. Our assessment is that the price should adjust over the autumn as this summer's cereals crop is harvested.

We shall continue to monitor the situation carefully, and encourage national governments to liberalise trade in agricultural commodities to enable shortfalls in one region to be balanced by surpluses in others. As part of the G20, we will also discourage governments from imposing export bans and from panic buying, actions which exacerbate price volatility.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to Pakistan in the last 12 months. [14638]

Mr O'Brien: In the last 12 months, the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided aid to Pakistan to help put more children into school, improve macroeconomic stability, and support the efficient and effective delivery of basic services, resulting, in the previous financial year DFID providing £140 million worth of aid to Pakistan.

In the last six weeks, the UK has played a leading role in the international response to the devastating flooding in Pakistan. Our humanitarian aid is helping to support:

shelter for more than 80,290 people;

high energy food supplements for half a million malnourished women and children;

safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for 800,000;

five RAF flights to take urgent supplies into Pakistan and six charter flights;

10 bridges are on a ship from the UK and are scheduled to arrive in Karachi in mid-September.

The UK humanitarian commitment totals £64 million.

UN Development Funds

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK's *(a)* assessed and *(b)* voluntary (i) core and (ii) additional financial contributions were to UNIFEM in each of the last three financial years. [14680]

Mr O'Brien: Contributions to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) are not assessed and the contributions of all Governments are voluntary. The UK's core and additional financial contributions to UNIFEM in the last three calendar years were as follows.

$

	Core funding[1]	*Additional financial contributions*	*Total*
2007	6,085,000	6,301,000	12,387,000
2008	5,217,000	4,338,000	9,555,000
2009	4,800,000	1,851,000	6,651,000

[1] UK core funding for UNIFEM was £3 million for each of the three years. Differences between the above figures in US dollars reflect changes in the exchange rate.

Source:

UNIFEM's annual report 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK's *(a)* assessed, and *(b)* voluntary (i) core and (ii) additional financial contributions were to UNICEF in each of the last three financial years. [14681]

Mr O'Brien: Contributions to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are not assessed and the contributions of all Governments are voluntary. The UK's core and additional financial contributions to UNICEF in the last three calendar years were as follows.

$ million

	Core funding[1]	*Additional financial contributions*	*Total*
2007	42	153	195
2008	38	175	213
2009	34	148	182

[1] UK core funding for UNICEF was £21 million for each of the three years. Differences between the above figures in US dollars reflect changes in the exchange rate.

Source:

UNICEF audited accounts 2007, 2008, 2009.

DEFENCE

Animal Experiments

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to reduce the number of animals used in experiments by his Department. [14441]

Peter Luff: The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) at Porton Down undertakes the animal research conducted within the Ministry of Defence. Part of the remit of Dstl Porton Down is to provide safe effective countermeasures for the UK and its armed forces and to develop medical and surgical techniques to enhance the treatment of battlefield casualties and save lives.

The research involving the use of animals is only one small aspect of a much wider research programme and animal studies are only ever undertaken if there is no viable alternative. Dstl Porton Down operates a continuous policy in accordance with the principles of the 3 R's (replacement, reduction and refinement) and has an active programme to increase the implementation of the 3 R's by exploring the use of non-living models in order to reduce the requirement for animal experimentation. Accordingly, tissue and cell cultures, physical or computer-based modelling, are used wherever possible and commensurate with good practice. Dstl continues to actively develop and further investigate the use of non-living models to reduce the requirement for animal studies. However, where these alternatives are considered inadequate as a means of predicting the overall human response, experiments on animals will continue to be necessary.

Armed Forces: Empty Housing

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of maintaining empty service accommodation in each of the last five years; and what the Cost to the public purse was of dilapidation and remedial costs on such properties in that period. [14292]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The total maintenance, dilapidation and remedial costs for all empty accommodation are not separately identifiable from that for occupied accommodation.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently rents some 41,000 Service Family Accommodation properties in England and Wales from Annington Homes Ltd (AHL). Under the terms of the agreement with AHL, when no longer required by the MOD properties must be returned in good tenantable repair or the Department has to pay compensation in the form of a dilapidation charge.

Total dilapidation payments to AHL in each of the last five financial years were:

Financial year	*Dilapidation payment (£ million)*	*Properties handed back*
2005-06	3.7	670
2006-07	1.4	303
2007-08	3.0	460
2008-09	3.7	480
2009-10	4.6	722

United Kingdom Support Command manages 13,000 German Federal SFA Properties and some 5,000 leased properties located in Germany.

The costs attributed to dilapidations in empty accommodation in Germany are as follows:

Financial year	*Dilapidation payment (Euro)*	*Properties handed back*
2005-06	37,000	325
2006-07	574,000	499
2007-08	269,000	655
2008-09	271,000	1,349
2009-10	12,000	218

It is not possible to separate cost for the maintenance of empty service accommodation on the Overseas Permanent Joint Operating Bases from that of occupied accommodation.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects to let the contract for the first batch of light protected patrol vehicles; [14293]

(2) whether the Government plan to proceed with the planned contract for the second batch of light protected patrol vehicles; and if he will make a statement; [14294]

(3) when he expects the first batch of light protected patrol vehicles to be delivered to theatre. [14295]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence expects to be in a position to place a contract for the first batch of light protected patrol vehicle (LPPV) in the coming weeks. While milestones such as delivery dates will be subject to agreement with the contractor, we expect the first vehicles to be delivered to training in late 2011, with deliveries to operations in 2012. Any further buys of LPPV will be subject to the confirmation of our wider requirement, which is being assessed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what intervals the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Nuclear Safety Committee met in the last 12 months; and what the names are of the committee members. [2026]

Peter Luff: Meetings of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Nuclear Safety Committee are held on a monthly basis. Additional meetings are held as required in response to business requirements, but no such meetings have been required in the last 12 months.

With regard to the names of the committee members, I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Caroline Lucas:

I undertook on 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 234W to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question asking for the names of the members of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's (AWE) Nuclear Safety Committee. I apologise for the length of time it, has taken to respond.

The committee is chaired by the AWE Chief Executive Officer, Mr R McGill. The other AWE members are:

Mrs H Young - (Deputy Chair) Director Environment, Safety and Health.

Dr A Jupp - Director Infrastructure Programme.

Mr R Tinsley - Director Operations.

Dr G Nicholson - Director Science and Technology.

Dr R Irvin - Director Major Projects.

Dr D Landeg - Warhead Safety.

Mr M Hedges - Engineering.

Mr J West - Warhead Design.

Mr G Beard - Environment.

The committee's membership also includes independent external safety specialists. I am withholding the names of these individuals as this is considered to be personal information.

In my answer, I stated that no additional meetings of the committee had been required in the last 12 months. When the answer was prepared, that was indeed the case. AWE has now indicated, however, that an additional meeting of the committee took place on 14 June; the purpose of this meeting was to provide a more detailed independent review of one of AWE's operational processes. As a result, the answer published on 23 June was incorrect. I must also apologise for this inadvertent error.

Defence Equipment

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the significance for the UK economy of *(a)* defence exports and *(b)* the UK's defence manufacturing capability. [14159]

Peter Luff: We recognise the important contribution made to the UK economy and specifically to manufacturing industry by companies supplying the defence sector.

The UK was the second most successful global exporter in 2009, with new defence export orders of over £7 billion. We aim to publish a White Paper in spring 2011 setting out MOD's industrial and technology policy for the next five years.

Defence Research

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* Radar Additional Study and *(b)* Data Transport Study. [14595]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: Both the Radar Additional and the Data Transport Studies contain information that is considered to be sensitive, both in terms of national security and to the commercial interests of the Ministry of Defence. I am, therefore, withholding both documents while work is being carried out to review them and produce versions that can be released without prejudicing those interests. This work is expected to be completed by the end of this month, when copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Payments

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13936]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence measures its payment performance by the number of invoices paid against the Government's prompt payment initiative and against commercial debt legislation. The legislation requires correctly presented invoices to be paid within 30 calendar days from the date of invoice or date of delivery of goods or services, whichever is the later. The Department does not collate this information against organisational subunits other than trading fund agencies and is therefore unable to break this performance down without disproportionate cost. On this basis the commercial debt performance for August 2010 for the periods specified was:

MOD	*Number*
Within 30 days	372,065
Over 30 days	1,799
Over 60 days	722
Over 90 days	398

Departmental Contracts

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to how many contracts under the private finance initiative *(a)* his Department is and *(b)* its agencies are party; how much was spent on such contracts in each year since 2005; and what the (i) name and (ii) monetary value is of each such contract worth over £1 million a year. [13773]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (including its agencies) has entered into 54 PFI projects, of which 45 are still operating.

Details of the monetary value and spending on these projects is already in the public domain and can be found on the HM Treasury website at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to how many contracts not under the private finance initiative *(a)* his Department is and *(b)* its agencies are party; how much was spent on such contracts in each year since 2005; what the (i) name and (ii) monetary value is of each such contract worth over £1 million a year; and whether any such contracts have been terminated before the end date originally specified in the contract during the last 12 months. [13774]

Peter Luff: The total number of contracts that appear on the Ministry of Defence's Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) database at the end of each financial year; the total payments made against those contracts during that financial year; the number of contracts that are valued at over £1 million; and the number of contracts where spending of over £1 million was recorded in that financial year, are shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of contracts on database*[1]	*Total payments against these contracts (£ million)*	*Number of contracts valued at over £1 million*	*Number of contracts where over £1 million paid*
2005-06	42,952	13,483	6,771	1,521
2006-07	31,376	14,048	5,952	1,437
2007-08	43,974	15,676	7,205	1,467
2008-09	33,943	17,323	6,149	1,580
2009-10	33,961	18,160	6,297	1,540

[1] These figures do not include miscellaneous contracts or PFI contracts

Note:

Many contracts will appear in more than one year

MOD are unable to provide all the information requested, as it is not held centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of progress in the delivery of the A400M military transport aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [14592]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: In November 2008 EADS/Airbus Military announced difficulties in proceeding with the programme as contracted, proposed a new way ahead and announced that they wished to discuss details of the A400M programme with Partner Nations.

In April 2009 the UK joined other Partner Nations in a "standstill" agreement with Airbus Military. This enabled a period of discussions on options and possible outcomes for the A400M programme to take place whilst the rights of all parties under the existing contract were protected. Discussions continued throughout the remainder of 2009 and into 2010, culminating in agreement in principle on the future of the A400M programme being reached in March of this year.

Non-legally binding Heads of Terms signed at this time with Airbus Military by the European armaments agency OCCAR acting on behalf of Partner Nations are intended to form the basis of an amended contract. Subject to agreement of the amended contract, the UK off-take will be reduced by no more than three aircraft to a total fleet of 22 A400M. As intensive discussions on the details of the amended contract are ongoing, I am unable to provide any further information at present, save that we expect it to be concluded later this year.

Over this period positive achievements have included the first flight of the A400M prototype in Seville on 11 December 2009. The second prototype made its maiden flight on 8 April 2010 and the third on 9 July 2010. All three aircraft are now involved in the flight trials programme which is progressing to target with over 575 flying hours achieved to date.

Gibraltar: Armed Forces

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many children of British military personnel who are *(a)* under 10-years-old and *(b)* between 10 and 18-years-old are being educated in Gibraltar. [14625]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently educating 91 children under 10-years-old and 25 children between the ages of 10 and 18 in its schools in Gibraltar. It is not possible to split these numbers between children of military personnel and those of UK-based civilians. Not all parents choose to educate their children within the MOD school system.

The schools also educate the children of MOD contractors and some local community children on a fee-paying basis. In addition to the numbers above there are currently two children under 10-years-old and one child aged between 10 and 18 being educated on this basis.

Hebrides Missile Range

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pairs of fibre-optic cables his Department has between Hebrides Range and the mainland of Scotland. [14019]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has no fibre optic cables running between the Hebrides Range and the mainland of Scotland.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent reports he has received on the progress of the Iraqi authorities in apprehending those responsible for the deaths of six Royal Military Police Officers from Colchester at Majar al-Kabir in June 2003. [14824]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence receives formal weekly reports from officials in Baghdad providing updates on key developments in the criminal investigation into the murders of the six Royal Military Policemen in Iraq.

We were recently informed that the Iraqi Investigative Judge has indicated that a case against two of the seven suspects detained in Iraqi custody should be referred to trial at the Central Criminal Court of Iraq. Dates for these trials have yet to be set. Five suspects are no longer suspected of having any involvement and we have received confirmation that they have been released.

Additionally, there are seven outstanding arrest warrants being actively pursued.

I have written twice to the families in recent weeks. My officials are in regular contact with the soldiers' families and communicate all significant developments directly to them. As soon as we have confirmation of a trial date or of any arrests against the outstanding warrants, families will be notified.

Lynx Helicopters

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the Future Lynx/Wildcat project; and to what expenditure on the project it is contractually committed. [14752]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* As at 31 August 2010 the contracted value of the Lynx Wildcat Design and Manufacture contract and supporting contracts is some £1.4 billion, of which about £560 million has been spent to date.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each flight hour of the *(a)* Tornado GR4, *(b)* Typhoon F2, *(c)* Harrier GR7, *(d)* Tornado F3 and *(e)* Harrier GR9. [13568]

Peter Luff: The estimated average full cost per funded flying hour is provided in the following table:

Aircraft	*Cost, financial year 2010-11 (£/hour)*
Tornado GR4	35,000
Typhoon FGR4 (previously known as F2)	70,000
Harrier GR7/GR9	37,000
Tornado F3	43,000

These figures include forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs, cost of capital charge, depreciation and amortisation. The Typhoon cost per flying hour reflects the build up of the fleet with smaller numbers of aircraft currently in service; this cost is expected to reduce significantly over the in-service life of the aircraft.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether research and development into bio-technology *(a)* defence counter-measures and *(b)* offensive measures are included in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [14150]

Peter Luff: The UK's total defence science and technology requirement is being considered in Strategic Defence and Security Review. The UK does not have an offensive chemical or biological weapons programme.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what account he is taking of the likely effects on the manufacturing industry in the North West of changes in expenditure on defence contracts in the conduct of the Strategic Defence and Security Review; [14419]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the manufacturing and aerospace industries in the North West of proposed reductions in defence spending. [14420]

Peter Luff: We recognise the major contribution made to UK defence by industry throughout the north-west of England. The Strategic Defence and Security Review is still under way and therefore it would be premature to speculate about the impact of future levels of expenditure on defence contracts.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Regulation

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals she has for the reduction of the regulatory burden on the agricultural industry; and if she will make a statement. [14224]

Mr Paice: We are very aware of the need to reduce burdens on farmers, increase competitiveness and trust in business and maintain standards. The Task Force on Farm Regulation, appointed in July, will consider how to reduce regulatory burdens, deliver risk-based and integrated compliance and inspection. It will consider all regulation that bears on farmers, and has started a wide consultation to understand which issues cause farmers most concern.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long on average it took to process a Single Farm Payment claim in the latest period for which figures are available. [14312]

Mr Paice: The complexity of the single payment scheme (SPS) and system processes in place to validate claims in accordance to the Commission regulations, means that it is not possible to provide a meaningful assessment of the average time to process a claim.

The regulatory payment window runs from 1 December to 30 June. The Rural Payments Agency paid 85% of customers by the end of December 2009. A further 9% were paid by the end of March 2010 and all but 300 customers had received some form of payment by the 30 June, the end of the payment window.

The estimated total claimant population for 2009 was 107,500. A number of applications resulted in no payment being due. This situation arises where, for example, customers hold entitlements for the wrong area type, have submitted duplicate claim forms or will receive payments from the devolved Administrations.

Bats: Licensing

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the average cost per application of obtaining the expert advice required to support an application for a bat licence. [15100]

Richard Benyon: Neither DEFRA nor Natural England collate this information therefore an accurate average cost figure cannot be produced. The costs of obtaining expert advice to support a European protected species licence application may vary considerably according to the specifics of each site and proposal and will to a large extent be dictated by market forces.

Natural England provides general species advice and guidance to a range of customers and operates the licensing service for European protected species. Costs may be incurred when employing the services of a professional consultant adviser to provide the evidence needed to meet both planning and licensing requirements.

Bats: Nature Conservation

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibilities her Department has for protection of bats; and if she will make a statement. [15101]

Richard Benyon: The European Habitats Directive places member states under an obligation to ensure that species listed in annex IV to the directive are given strict legal protection and this includes all species of bats. All public bodies are also under a general legal obligation to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions by virtue of regulation 9(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Measures taken to comply with these obligations can take many forms dependent on the individual circumstances of the case in question, and the extent of any feasible or necessary measures will very much depend on the degree of harm to the species that is foreseen.

The UK is a party to the Agreement on the Conservation of European Bats (the Eurobats Agreement) which promotes their protection internationally. In addition the Joint Nature Conservation Committee contributes to the National Bat Monitoring Programme, and Natural England carries out work to protect bats.

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on protection of bats in the most recent year for which figures are available. [15102]

Richard Benyon: The UK is a party to the Agreement on the Conservation of European Bats (the Eurobats Agreement) which promotes their protection internationally and for which the UK subscription in 2010 was £64,266. In addition the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) contributed £87,000 to the National Bat Monitoring Programme in 2009-10. Natural England estimates that it has spent approximately £350,000 on work to protect bats in 2009-10.

Biofuels

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the European Commission's proposal to establish a mandatory separated collection system for bio-waste as referred to in the Green Paper on management of biowaste in the EU (2009/2153(INI)). [15011]

Richard Benyon: The Government believe that local authorities, working with local communities, are best placed to decide on the most appropriate options for waste management, including collection. For example, there are differences in what suits urban areas compared to suburban or rural areas in terms of the most appropriate waste collection types and frequencies.

The Review of Waste Policy announced in June will look at policies surrounding bio-waste, to see what can be done to reduce further the amount that ends up in landfill.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of cattle affected with bovine tuberculosis which have been slaughtered in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the monetary value of compensation awarded to farmers in respect of livestock so slaughtered. [15174]

Mr Paice: The number of cattle slaughtered in England under bovine tuberculosis control measures, either as test reactors or direct contacts, and the amount of compensation paid in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Number of cattle slaughtered[1]	*Compensation paid (£million)*[2]
2009	25,557	30.6
2008	27,455	28.6
2007	19,794	13.6
2006	16,007	16.3
2005	23,135	31.4

[1] VetNet - Animal Health database

[2] DEFRA Oracle Financial system

Note

All figures are subject to change as more data becomes available.

Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to promote the use of supplementary Green Book guidance on accounting for the effects of climate change in the development, appraisal and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects in Government Departments. [14486]

Richard Benyon: The Government want to ensure the supplementary guidance is fully used by public sector bodies, including Government Departments, in making investment decisions, particularly for major long-term investments.

DEFRA has already taken a number of steps to promote the use of this guidance. The Treasury hosted a Government Economic Service conference in March 2010 to raise awareness among those responsible for policy development and appraisal. All departmental chief economists have been asked to promote the guidance. It has been downloaded over 20,000 times from DEFRA's website since it was put in place in 2009, and 13 Departments reference to it in their Departmental Adaptation Plans. We intend to evaluate the impact of the guidance in the coming year and continue to promote its use.

Dangerous Dogs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on dangerous dogs. [14218]

Mr Paice: Regular discussions take place at official level as DEFRA is represented on the Home Office's Antisocial Behaviour Steering Group whose remit includes dangerous dogs.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many respondents to her Department's consultation on dangerous dogs supported the introduction of mandatory permanent identification as a means of promoting responsible dog ownership. [14219]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is not yet in a position to publish the summary of responses to the consultation on dangerous dogs.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many transport-related fines her Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each year. [13315]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not expect to pay such fines; these would be the responsibility of the person who committed the offence.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many chairs her Department and its predecessor purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12801]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is tabled as follows.

	Chair description	*Number purchased*	*Individual cost of item purchased (£)*	*Total spend (£)*
2003	Task Chair	80	83	6,640

	Chair description	*Number purchased*	*Individual cost of item purchased (£)*	*Total spend (£)*
2004	Task Chair	87	224	
	Orthopaedic Chair	11	522	
	Meeting Chair	330	181	
	Reclining Chair	1	349	
	2 Seater Sofa	17	1,506	185,440
2005	Task Chair	535	251	
	Meeting Chair	754	275	
	Tall Kitchen Chair	50	221	
	Breakout Chair	86	120	
	2 Seater Sofa	4	1,327	
	Reclining Chair	1	1,175	282,510
2006	Meeting Chair	36	220	
	Orthopaedic Chair	1	545	6,214
2007	—			
2008	Tall Kitchen Chair	27	221	
	Breakout Chairs	24	292	13,089
2009	Reception Chairs	10	450	
	Task Chair	9	102	
	Tall Kitchen Chair	2	241	
	Sofa	3	1,100	10,936
2010	Task Chair	126	174	
	Meeting Chair	72	190	
	Breakout Chair	28	412	
	Orthopaedic Chair	1	788	42,332

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in July 2010. [15151]

Richard Benyon: Ministers hosted one event in July 2010 at which hospitality was provided for a total cost of £27.

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to tackle the trade in puppy and farmed dogs; and whether she plans to bring forward proposals to ban the sale of puppies in pet shops. [14212]

Mr Paice: I consider that the existing legislation provides the necessary protection for the welfare of dogs, including the commercial breeding and selling of dogs, which is subject to licensing, as well as the more general welfare provisions in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. There are no proposals to ban the sale of puppies from pet shops.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to address the effects on animal welfare of the breeding of pedigree dogs. [14213]

Mr Paice: I consider that the existing legislation on the breeding and sale of dogs provides adequate powers for local authorities to investigate allegations of poor welfare at dog breeding establishments. I also consider that the recent setting up of an independent Dog Advisory Council is a positive step towards protecting the health of pedigree dogs.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to amend her Department's Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs to include sections on *(a)* dog breeding and *(b)* genetic health; and if she will make a statement. [14804]

Mr Paice: I am satisfied with the advice about breeding and inherited diseases contained in the existing Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs and therefore have no plans to amend it.

Dogs: Licensing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had discussions with representatives of the RSPCA on the introduction of an annual dog licence fee of £21.50 to fund dog health and welfare. [14697]

Mr Paice: Lord Henley recently met with the RSPCA to discuss a number of issues affecting animal welfare, including dog licences.

Food Supply

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on policy to promote British-grown and produced food. [14678]

Mr Paice: Finding ways to enable British farmers to take advantage of the growing demand for local and regional food is a high priority for this Government.

Over recent months I have held discussions with retailers, producer groups, manufacturers and social enterprise organisations. I welcome retailers' efforts to increase the availability of regional and local food and want to see this develop further so that consumers can choose local and regional food more easily.

I have also been working in partnership with organisations across the whole food chain to encourage better labelling and greater use of best practice so that consumers find it easier to make informed choices.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department has identified to be the greatest single threat to the country's food security. [13862]

Mr Paice: An assessment of UK Food Security published in August 2009, and updated in January 2010, shows that the UK enjoys a high level of food security. The assessment does not identify a single greatest threat but analyses a wide range of indicators and evidence for assessing UK food security structured around six themes: global availability; global resource sustainability; UK availability and access UK food chain resilience; food security at household level; and safety and confidence in our food supply.

It remains one of DEFRA's priorities to ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food in the face of future challenges.

Food: Labelling

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take in discussions at EU level to seek to ensure accurate country-of-origin labelling on meat, meat products and dairy products. [15379]

Mr Paice: Existing EU legislation requires mandatory origin labelling for beef, veal and eggs together with poultry meat from third countries, fish, most fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, olive oil and wine. There are new rules on origin labelling currently being discussed in Europe as part a new regulation on food labelling. This will address whether there should be compulsory origin labelling for certain additional foods. We have not ruled out any options at this stage.

As set out in our structural reform plan, we want to ensure that consumers have confidence in origin claims that are being made. We know that consumers are particularly concerned about meat and dairy products. We are working with the food industry, retailers and others to encourage better labelling, greater compliance with Government best practice guidance and are developing clear principles that can be followed. I have written to key organisations seeking their collaboration in taking this forward.

Greyhound Racing: Licensing

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many greyhound track licences have been issued by local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such licences have been conditional on improvements to *(a)* track and *(b)* kennels. [14217]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold a central record of applications for licences from independent greyhound tracks. Such records are held with individual local authorities.

Lighting: Waste Disposal

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to increase the number of local designated collection facilities for the disposal of low-energy light bulbs. [14843]

Richard Benyon: Low energy lamps are subject to the requirements of the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations. Retailers selling energy efficient lamps must provide information to the public about where they can take waste lamps and other WEEE for final disposal. Most UK retailers have opted to fund designated collection facilities to discharge their take back obligations under the WEEE regulations, mainly through improvements and upgrades at local authority civic amenity sites.

There are over 1,100 designated collection facilities in the UK, of which 97% separately collect lighting equipment including all lamps. In addition, some shops take back these lamps in store, and Recolight (the leading producer compliance scheme for lamps approved under the WEEE regulations) is working with a number of retailers to raise awareness of these facilities among consumers and also with business end-users to maximise the collection of such lamps outside the domestic waste stream.

As part of the Review of Waste Policy announced in June, we will be considering how we can best help communities, businesses and individuals to do the right thing.

Pets: Animal Welfare

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many codes of practice for the keeping of *(a)* dogs and *(b)* cats have been issued since the enactment of the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [14216]

Mr Paice: A Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs and a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats came into force on 6 April 2010. Both codes are available on the DEFRA website for people to read and download. We have no record of how many copies have been downloaded and printed but the following table shows the number of people each month from January to June 2010 that have visited each of the two codes on the DEFRA website.

2010	Cat	Dog
January	3,762	8,007
February	3,318	8,044
March	4,023	9,558
April	2,762	8,240
May	3,204	8,196
June	3,111	7,952
Total	20,180	49,997

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to introduce regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in respect of pet vending. [14220]

Mr Paice: We have no plans to introduce regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 on pet vending. I am satisfied that the Pet Animals Act 1951 (as amended in 1983) together with the 2006 Act provide adequate protection for the welfare of animals sold as pets.

Recycling: Prices

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate her Department has made of the unit price paid for recycled *(a)* glass, *(b)* paper, *(c)* cardboard, *(d)* aluminium, *(e)* other metals, *(f)* plastics and *(g)* wood. [14279]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold this information. Historical information on prices is available from the Market Knowledge Portal on the Waste and Resources Action Programme's website at:

www.wrap.org.uk/recycling_industry/market_information/market_knowledge_portal/index.html

Rural Payments Agency: Pay

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total value of bonuses paid to staff of the Rural Payments Agency was in each year since its inception. [14402]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 9 September 2010]*: The total value of Non Consolidated Performance Payments paid to staff of the Rural Payments Agency from 2004-05 to 2008-09 is shown in the table.

It is not possible to provide the data for the years previous to 2004-05 as this is held on a legacy system that it is not possible to interrogate.

	Amount spent (£000)
2004-05	281
2005-06	252
2006-07	302
2007-08	452
2008-09	559
2009-10	464

RPA performance payments are paid to RPA staff working on all aspects of the Agency's work which includes managing and making payments for some 60 schemes, making payments on a further 30 schemes delivered by others, carrying out inspections and operating the British Cattle Movement Service under two reward schemes:

(a) Staff who have achieved the required performance assessment following the end of year individual performance review. This arrangement is negotiated each year with the TUS; and

(b) A Special Recognition Scheme was introduced in 2007 and exists to recognise instances of people making additional or outstanding contributions to RPA's work, giving an employee up to £500 for an outstanding performance.

These figures include Non Consolidated Performance Payments paid to senior civil servants (SCS). The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent senior salaries review body.

Supermarkets: Plastic Bags

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of free plastic bags given out by supermarkets in each year since 2005; and what steps she plans to take to encourage supermarkets to reduce the number of free plastic bags they provide for their customers. [14794]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA only holds data on those supermarkets which are signatories to the voluntary agreement on reduction of single-use carrier bags. These data are collated by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) as part of the agreement and covers the period 2006 to 2010. As a result of the agreement, the number of bags given out has been dropping considerably over this period:

	Number of bags (billion)
2006	10.7
2007	9.7
2008	7.5
2009	6.7
2010	6.1

We will consider how to reduce these numbers yet further as part of our current review of waste policy.

Trees: Diseases

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to tackle mature oak disease; and if she will make a statement. [14588]

Mr Paice: There are a number of pests and diseases affecting trees and woodland in the United Kingdom. One of these diseases is acute oak decline, which appears to affect mature oaks, especially those over 50 years old.

As part of the programme of research into pests and diseases affecting trees and plant health, the Forestry Commission is collaborating with experts in other countries to ensure the UK is at the leading edge of research into acute oak decline. The Forestry Commission's research agency, Forest Research, has recently made some significant advances in its understanding of the cause of this disease by identifying bacteria new to science as a potential cause.

Forest Research has published a practice note: 'Managing Acute Oak Decline'. This offers advice to woodland owners on how to manage the impacts of this disease.

WALES

Devolution: Referendums

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has taken advice from the Attorney-General on whether she is required to consult the Electoral Commission on the wording of any new referendum question prior to laying secondary legislation before Parliament pursuant to the Government of Wales Act 2006. [15253]

Mrs Gillan: Advice sought from the Attorney-General is not disclosed outside government. There is a statutory requirement set out in Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 for the Secretary of State to refer the referendum question to the Electoral Commission to assess and report on its intelligibility, before the draft referendum Order is laid before Parliament.

I informed the House on 9 September 2010 that following discussion with the First Minister, he and I agreed with the Electoral Commission's recommendations to the redraft of the question and preamble made in their report of 2 September 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs in St Albans constituency in each year since 2000. [12117]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for East of England are set out in table 1.

Table 1 Number and percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income for East of England, before housing costs and after housing costs

	Before housing costs		*After housing costs*	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.2	15	0.3	23
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.2	15	0.3	23
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2	15	0.3	23
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2	16	0.3	24
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	15	0.3	25
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.2	15	0.3	26
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	16	0.3	26

Notes

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Number of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reasons for changes in the cost to the public purse of administering disability living allowance in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [12363]

Maria Miller: The information as requested is not available for the last five years.

There has been no fundamental change in the way DLA is administered in the period in question. However, a number of initiatives to improve process efficiency and reduce direct and indirect costs, including the closure of operating centres, were implemented, as part of a general drive to increase the cost efficiency of PDCS.

The full costs of administering disability living allowance, the volumes of work and staffing figures for the last two years are in the following table. After adjusting for inflation, costs reduced by 4%. Workloads reduced by 3%. Staffing levels reduced by 7%.

Disability living allowance	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total costs of administration[1, 2] (£ million)	198	193
Total costs of administration with adjustment for inflation (£ million)	198	190

Disability living allowance	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Volumes[3]	1,582,000	1,532,000
Staffing[4]	3,965	3,694

[1] Administration cost figures are rounded to the nearest million.
[2] Figures include corporate and shared costs.
[3] Volumes relates to work undertaken on new and existing claims to DLA, and are rounded to the nearest thousand.
[4] Staffing figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
Note: Disability living allowance includes new claims and maintenance of existing claims.
Sources:
Costs Department for Work and Pensions based on information in the published PDCS Annual Report and Accounts, and an estimated proportion of the total aggregated costs attributed to disability living allowance. *Volumes* Department for Work—Activity Based Management System—PDCS Management Information Statistics. *Staffing figures* 2008-09—Disability and Carers Service Dataview 2009-10—Pension, Disability and Carers Service Dataview.

The response to PQ/10/8648 gave the costs of administering DLA for 2009-10 as £163.4 million—a difference of £30 million compared to the figure in the table above. That answer was taken from the DWP Activity Based Management System which does not provide information for previous years. This answer estimates the DLA share of the total PDCS agency from financial data included in the annual report and accounts.

The accounts use a method of allocating overhead costs controlled outside the agency different to the Activity Based Management System. It is the method of apportioning those indirect overheads that lies behind the different numbers, rather than a change in the estimated costs incurred in the agency of administering DLA.

The overheads which are excluded in the costs quoted in the answer to PQ/10/8648, and included in this answer in the table above, relate to information technology and cost of capital. In the management information used to answer PQ/10/8648, they were not attributed to the cost of delivering DLA; whereas they were included in the audited accounts. They account for about 90% of the difference. The remaining 10% of the difference relates to timing issues—the data in the financial systems used for the published accounts included the effect of accounting adjustments not included in the management information underpinning the answer to PQ/10/8648.

Steps are now being taken to ensure complete consistency between the internal management information and the financial information in published agency accounts.

Disability Living Allowance: Cancer

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people diagnosed with cancer receive disability living allowance (DLA); and what his estimate is of the take-up rate for DLA among such people who are eligible for it. [13728]

Maria Miller: The following table provides information on cases in payment where the main disabling condition is recorded as malignant disease which includes cancer, carcinoma and leukaemia.

Estimates of the take-up rate are not available for disability living allowance.

Disability living allowance (in-payment): Main disabling condition: Malignant disease—February 2010

	All	*Malignant disease*
All entitled	3,200,700	88,900
In payment	3,137,700	81,300
Not in payment	63,000	7,600

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the WPLS.
3. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5% sample data is generally the preferred source for analysis on disabling condition as information is more complete for disabling condition on the 5% sample (Some recipients of DLA who transferred from the AA system may not have been allocated a specific disabling condition code. This problem can be corrected on the sample data but not on the WPLS data. The number of cases affected is decreasing over time).
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
5. In Payment for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. These cases are shown in the not in payment category.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Sample data (5%)

Housing Benefit: Coastal Areas

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the effects of proposed changes to housing benefit rates on the number of claimants moving to seaside towns. [14043]

Steve Webb: This information is not available.

Independent Living Fund: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive and *(b)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on the future operation of the Independent Living Fund for residents of Scotland. [13575]

Maria Miller: The Scottish Executive was advised of the decision by the Independent Living Fund to close the fund to new applicants in advance of the announcement made on 17 June. Since then the Minister for Disabled People has met with the Scottish Minister for Housing and Communities and a meeting is planned with the Scottish Minister for Public Health and Sport. In addition officials have also been in contact with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and officials in the Scottish Executive.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claims have been closed in the last three months; and of them, how many have been re-opened. [14089]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many jobseeker's allowance claims have been closed in the last three months; and of them how many have been: re-opened. (14089)

The number of individuals whose claims ended during the period 8th April to 8th July was 902,160. Of these, 177,680 started a new claim in the same period. These estimates have been derived using data from the Jobcentre Plus 5% cohort. This is a sample of the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Poverty: Children

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in workless households in Gateshead constituency in each year since 2004. [13384]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children were living in workless households in Gateshead constituency in each year since 2004. (13384)

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. These are currently available for 2004 to 2008. Due to the small sample size of the APS at constituency level it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for the constituency named Gateshead East and Washington West. However, the attached table shows estimates for Gateshead local authority which has a larger sample size. The table provides information for 2004 to 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table: Children[1] living in workless households[2] in Gateshead local authority

Thousand

January to December	*Estimate*	*Lower bound[3]*	*Upper bound[3]*
2004	5.9	4.2	7.7
2005	6.8	4.8	8.8
2006	8.6	6.3	11.0
2007	6.8	4.5	9.1
2008	5.8	3.6	7.9

[1] Children refers to children under 16.

[2] Households including at least one person aged 16-64.

[3] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:

APS household dataset

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its predecessor spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12990]

Chris Grayling: The information requested on taxi travel expenditure is only available from 2005-06. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Period (April to March each year)	*Expenditure (£ million)*	*Full-time equivalent staff resources (averaged over each year)*
2005-06	1.89	119,972
2006-07	2.45	114,500
2007-08	2.02	107,998
2008-09	2.29	102,374
2009-10	1.91	115,296

This expenditure includes expenditure on minicab/taxi firms and black cabs.

Note that the full-time equivalent staff resource figures include CMEC.

Expenditure by the Department on taxis needs to be seen in the following context:

> We estimate that some 40% of expenditure on taxis is incurred to enable disabled members of staff to travel to and from work. This expenditure represents payment by the Department of costs which in the case of other employers could be claimed for under the "Access to Work" scheme which Government Departments voluntarily forego;
>
> This amount of expenditure should also be viewed in the context of the size of the DWP work force of over 100,000 employees and the nature of its business operations that cover an office network of over 1,000 locations across Great Britain.

The Department has clear policies in place which not only limit the circumstances under which officials can justify the use of taxis but also challenges the need to travel and strongly advocates the use of video and teleconferences wherever these facilities are practical alternatives.

SCOTLAND

Act of Settlement 1701

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 974W, what the (*a*) dates, (*b*) times and (*c*) locations were of each meeting he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss the Act of Settlement 1701. [14834]

Michael Moore: As the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform explained in the Adjournment Debate on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1109, the Government have not ruled out any change, but if we are to undertake change, we need to do it in a careful and thoughtful way. Where future change is considered, I will discuss this with my ministerial colleagues.

Constituencies

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the (*a*) dates, (*b*) times and (*c*) locations were of the meetings he has had with the Advocate-General on the exemption of Orkney and Shetland constituency from plans to reduce the size of parliamentary constituencies in Scotland. [14884]

Michael Moore: No such meetings have been arranged to discuss the subject matter of the hon. Member's question. I regularly have discussions with the Advocate-General on a wide range of issues. The Government have proposed the two exceptions of Orkney and Shetland, and Na h-Eileanan an Iar as those islands are clearly unique in terms of their geography.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W, on departmental consultants, which external consultants and advisers his Department engaged in (*a*) 2008-09 and (*b*) 2009-10; and what work was commissioned from each. [15477]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office engaged the following external consultants and advisers in 2008-09 and 2009-10:

(a) 2008-09:

Quadrant Consultants—research into voters perceptions following the 2007 Scottish parliamentary elections.

Richmond Consulting and Oxford Economics—expert advice on the Scottish economy.

(b) 2009-10:

University of Glasgow—research support to the Glasgow Task Force on generational poverty and benefit reliance.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [14930]

David Mundell: Scotland Office expenditure on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister during July 2010 was as follows:

	July 2010
	£
The Secretary of State for Scotland	42.85
The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland	0

All expenditure incurred was in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

East Coast Railway Line: Timetables

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss the proposed changes to the East Coast Main Line rail service timetable. [11876]

Michael Moore: Network Rail and the train operators are continuing to develop the timetable for the East Coast Main Line rail service route which will be introduced from May 2011. The Government will make their decision to proceed with implementation once a final timetable is presented to them.

Glasgow

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* the city of Glasgow, *(b)* Edinburgh, *(c)* South Lanarkshire, *(d)* North Lanarkshire, *(e)* Renfrewshire, *(f)* the Scottish Borders, *(g)* Perth and Kinross and *(h)* Aberdeen on official business since his appointment; and on how many occasions he plans to visit each before 6 September 2010. [11346]

Michael Moore: I have visited a number of local authority areas on official business since taking up my appointment. In the course of the next few weeks I will carry out more such visits.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessor spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12980]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the following has been spent on taxi fares:

	Expenditure (£)
1999-2000[1,2]	9,224
2000-01	7,853
2001-02	8,518
2002-03	10,130
2003-04	8,960
2004-05	8,266
2005-06	8,983
2006-07	9,421
2007-08	10,885
2008-09	13,833
2009-10	17,407

[1] In our first year, the costs of the Scotland Office were not discernable from those of the Office of the Advocate-General. Therefore, the cost shown for the first year includes the costs of both Offices.

[2] Part year

EDUCATION

Academies: Special Educational Needs

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will monitor the performance of academies in narrowing the gap between the attainments of children with special educational needs and those of their peers. [7005]

Sarah Teather: The Special Educational Needs (Information) Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State for Education to publish information about pupils in England with special educational needs to help improve the well-being of these pupils.

The first publication under that Act released on 8 October 2009 "Children with Special Educational Needs 2009: an analysis" included data on the attainment gap between children with special educational needs and their peers.[1]

[1] The publication is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000851/index.shtml

Written Questions: Government Responses

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer Question *(a)* (i) 5514, (ii) 5498, (iii) 5512, (iv) 5499, (v) 5510, (vi) 5513 and (vii) 5566, tabled on 29 June 2010, *(b)* (i) 11433, (ii) 11434, (iii) 11435 and (iv) 11432, tabled on 21 July 2010 and *(c)* (i) 11975 and (ii) 11976, tabled on 23 July 2010, on the New Schools Network. [13886]

Mr Gibb: A response to question 11975 will be issued shortly.

Responses to the other questions listed were issued on:

PQs 5498, 5499, 5512, 5513, 5514 and 5566—6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W.

PQ 5510—6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 346W.

PQs 11432, 11433, 11434 and 11435—6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 351W.

PQ 11976—6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 349W.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 7731, tabled on 7 July 2010 for answer on 13 July 2010, on the Building Schools for the Future programme and the construction industry. [14762]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* A response was issued to the hon. Member on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 343W.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question *(a)* 9130 and *(b)* 9133, tabled on 13 July 2010 for answer on 19 July 2010, on special school provision in Coventry. [14764]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* Responses were issued to the hon. Member on 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 407W.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question *(a)* 10485, *(b)* 10483, *(c)* 10484 and *(d)* 10482, tabled on 19 July 2010 for answer on 22 July 2010, on faith schools. [14765]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* Responses to the questions listed were issued on:

PQ 10482—27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1199W.
PQ 10483—6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 340W.
PQ 10484—27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1199W.
PQ 10485—6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 340-1W.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many 18 to 24-year-olds are not in education, employment or training in Bury North constituency; and what steps his Department is taking to assist these people to enter education, employment or training. [13789]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number and proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds[1] in Bury local authority in 2009 not in education, employment or training.

[1] Age used is respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

	Bury
	Number and proportion
Number	5,000
Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds	23.1
95% confidence interval	+/- 6.6ppt

This information is from the Annual Population Survey, which covers the period January to December of each year, with 2009 being the most recent estimate available. The Annual Population Survey is the only available source of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are NEET. However, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies, such as parliamentary constituencies, or to provide local authority estimates for age ranges narrower than 16 to 24.

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a confidence interval of +/-6.6 percentage points means that the true value is between 6.6pp above the estimate and 6.6pp below the estimate.

Quarterly estimates of the number of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) derived from the Labour Force Survey are published by the Department for Education. The latest publication can be found online at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/index.shtml

This includes supplementary tables giving breakdowns of 18 to 24-year-olds NEET for each region.

Addressing the problem of young people who are not in education, employment and training is one of our key priorities. A lack of skills can be a barrier to gaining employment for some unemployed young people. Young people who are NEET are entitled to face to face support from the adult careers service, Next Step, and can expect to be referred to an adviser early on after claiming out-of-work benefits. A range of training options is already available and we are starting to give colleges and other providers more freedom to develop training programmes which reflect the needs of young people in their areas. For those young people who stay NEET and are claiming benefits for six months or more, the Work Programme will provide a tailored package of support to get people into work.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Departmental Manpower

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff were employed in each department of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month since 6 May 2010. [14619]

Mr Charles Walker: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed in each department of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month since 6 May 2010 is given in the table. This figure includes permanent and fixed-term IPSA employees, permanent employees of other organisations seconded to IPSA, interims and temporary staff who are not IPSA employees.

	May	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*[1]
CEO and Support	2	2	2	2	2
Operations	37.5	39.5	53.3	61.7	58.7
Finance and Corporate Services	14	14	14	13.4	10.4
Policy, Communications and Secretariat	10	10	10	9	9
Total	63.5	65.5	79.3	86.1	80.1

[1] Current

Members: Correspondence

Mr Chope: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, when the Chairman of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority plans to reply to the letter to him of 13 July 2010 from the office of the hon. Member for Christchurch. [14924]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible for IPSA to provide a response to this question by the named day. IPSA will respond as soon as possible.

Public Appointments: Compensation

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much the former Operations Director of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority received in compensation on leaving his post; and whether he left his duties on medical grounds. [14499]

Mr Charles Walker: No compensation was paid to the former Operations Director. He was contracted as an interim to manage the planning and immediate start-up phase of the organisation. His assignment ended when the work had been substantially completed.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Battle of Waterloo: Anniversaries

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department plans to take to commemorate the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. [14576]

John Penrose: The Department has no plans, to commemorate the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo itself, but there are initiatives being organised by a number of national and regional military museums to mark the occasion, including the National Army Museum and relevant regimental museums, which come under the remit of the Ministry of Defence. There is also likely to be some commemorative activity at associated heritage sites such as Apsley House, the home of the Duke of Wellington, and Walmer Castle.

Bookmakers

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the proportion of the revenue of high street bookmakers which can be attributed to fixed odds betting terminals. [15140]

John Penrose: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

The Gambling Commission publishes statistics on the gambling industry each year. The most recent publication/Industry Statistics 2008-09 is available online at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/pdf/Gambling%20Industry%20Statistics%202008%202009%20-%20update%20-%20October%202009.pdf

This publication contains provisional figures based on regulatory returns made by licensed off-course betting operators. These show that the gross profit from betting was £1,717,100,000 and the gross profit from gaming machines in betting shops, which include B2 machines (formerly known as fixed odds betting terminals) was £1,138,000,000.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will provide advice and assistance to local authorities to establish new playing fields to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of HM the Queen. [15254]

Hugh Robertson: Fields in Trust (FIT) recently announced a programme to protect playing fields as part of the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations in 2012.

Sport England is working with FIT to consider how this work could complement the strategy being developed for ensuring a successful sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympics.

Mobile Phones: Contracts

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) at what level he expects Mobile termination rates to be set by January 2012; [13813]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ofcom on proposals to expedite reduction of mobile termination rates. [13814]

Mr Vaizey: Mobile termination rates (the wholesale charges operators make to connect calls to each other's networks) are a regulatory matter falling within Ofcom's remit, as the independent UK communications regulator.

Existing rules which limit mobile termination rates in the UK will expire on 31 March 2011. Between 1 April and 23 June this year Ofcom consulted on what, if any, MTR rules should apply thereafter. The consultation covered plans to reduce MTRs to benefit UK mobile and landline consumers. In that consultation, Ofcom proposed MTRs on a four year glide path (in pence per minute) as follows.

Pence per minute

	2010-11	*20011-12*	*2012-13*	*20013-14*	*2014-15*
Voadafone/O2/Orange/T-Mobile	4.3	2.5	1.5	0.9	0.5
H3G	4.6	2.5	1.5	0.9	0.5
Other mobile communications providers	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Set on the basis of being fair and reasonable

Ofcom's proposals would reduce MTRs by around 85% over the next four years from 4.3 ppm in 2010-11 to 0.5 ppm by 2015. This glide path is designed to minimise the impact of the lost revenue on operators and will also help to ensure that operators do not look to recoup the cost of lower termination rates from their customers as they might with a steeper glide path.

Ofcom are considering submissions received from consumers, consumer groups and operators and they expect to announce the results of this consultation early in 2011. As an independent regulator it is not appropriate for me to discuss these issues with Ofcom, their decision will take into account views raised by stakeholders and will be made in accordance with their statutory duties.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations in *(a)* Tyne and Wear and *(b)* Washington and Sunderland West constituency; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [14562]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses across the nations and regions that have won Olympic-related contracts directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), and in the supply chains of its contractors, is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

The estimated value of the contracts awarded to businesses in Tyne and Wear is £854,154, and to date no businesses have been awarded contracts in the Washington and Sunderland West constituency. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains. The ODA is unable to release the value of individual contracts at this time as this is commercially sensitive information. These figures represent the committed spend to date, rather than the end contract value, as in many cases this will not yet be known.

Sports: Facilities

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that sports clubs that choose not to apply for Clubmark status receive fair and equal treatment from local authorities and other providers of sports facilities; [14787]

(2) what role Knight, Kavanagh and Page has in the operation of the Clubmark scheme; and how much Knight, Kavanagh and Page has been paid by his Department for discharging that role in the last 12 months; [14788]

(3) what the cost of administering the Clubmark scheme was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [14789]

Hugh Robertson: It is at the discretion of local authorities and local sports providers to determine the level of support they offer to local sports clubs. We are keen to help ensure quality of sporting provision across the board, and in many cases Clubmark, or its equivalent, helps deliver this.

Many local authorities have chosen to adopt the scheme because Clubmark accreditation recognises a club's commitment to providing a safe quality environment for young people.

Sport England invests £174,000 per annum into the Clubmark scheme directly through Knight, Kavanagh and Page who manage and administer the whole programme on their behalf.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of sports clubs affiliated to national governing bodies recognised by Sport England. [14790]

Hugh Robertson: The information requested is not collated centrally by the Department or by Sport England.

I can however confirm that as at the end of July 2010 there were 6,299 Clubmark accredited clubs and 4,801 registered as working towards Clubmark. The database is in the public domain and can be found on the Clubmark website:

http://www.clubmark.org.uk/resources/clubmark-accredited-clubs-database

Further, there are 3,616 charter standard football clubs. Charter Standard and Clubmark have recently become aligned. Consequently, there are now 9,915 Clubmark accredited clubs.

Clubmark is the only national cross sports quality accreditation scheme for clubs with junior sections. It is built around a set of core criteria which ensure that accredited clubs operate to a set of consistent, accepted and adopted minimum operating standards.

Television: Urban Areas

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate has been made of the opportunity cost of using interleaved spectrum for the broadcast of city TV services. [13372]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom made an assessment of the opportunity cost of interleaved spectrum in its 2007 Digital Dividend Review and concluded this could be between £50 million to £400 million per frequency channel over 20 years depending on certain factors. In 2009, licences for use of one interleaved channel in Manchester and Cardiff were auctioned at the reserve price of £10,000 each.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Official Publications: Costs

Mr MacShane: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost was of producing the publication *(a)* The Houses of Parliament: Travel Office, *(b)* The Houses of Parliament: Keeping Yourself Healthy in Parliament and *(c)* House of Commons, What's on June to September 2010. [14679]

Sir Stuart Bell: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The leaflet on the Travel Office was produced in-house. There have been three print runs since November 2009 totalling 2,300 copies at a total cost of £422 (the latest being in May 2010 for 350 copies at a cost of £73).

(b) The Keeping Yourself Healthy in Parliament leaflet was similarly produced in-house, at a cost of £353 for 3050 copies.

(c) The What's On Guide June to September was printed externally at a cost of £745 for 2,000 copies.

In addition, it is estimated that the staff time involved in designing the three publications cost £450 in total.

Palace of Westminster: Gas

Mr Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission on how many occasions a smell of gas has been reported in the colonnade of New Palace Yard in the last 12 months; and what steps have been taken as a consequence of such reports. [15293]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Parliamentary Estate's records show that since 1 September 2009 there have been eight instances, in each case related to gas lanterns.

The gas lanterns are Victorian and the fragile mantles are sometimes broken as a result of adverse weather, which leads to a smell of escaping gas. The design is such however that there is no reasonably foreseeable risk of a gas explosion, due to the small size of the gas supply pipe and the fact that they vent to atmosphere. These gas lamps are used throughout London's Royal Parks.

The recent gas smell has been investigated and the lantern is now isolated awaiting repair. In the meantime a pressure drop test on the gas supply pipework has revealed no leaks.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Bats

George Freeman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners what estimate the Church Commissioners have made of the cost to churches of compliance with conditions attached to planning permissions in respect of bats in the latest period for which figures are available. [15081]

Tony Baldry: There are no figures available for the total cost to parishes in Norfolk of getting the necessary bat surveys done before work on the fabric of church buildings can be started, nor of the total cost borne by parishes in mitigating the damage caused by bats in Norfolk churches. Surveys carried out by accredited ecologists usually cost between £1,000 and £2,000. Cleaning where colonies of bats exist is a major outlay for any parish church, an example of this is St Andrew's Church in Holme Hale, Norfolk, one of the worst effected in the country, in the last year this church has paid £2,600 in cleaning costs to clear up after its resident bats.

George Freeman: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners what estimate the Church Commissioners have made of the number of cases of damage to historic churches in Norfolk caused by bats. [15091]

Tony Baldry: The damage to historic artefacts is incalculable, mainly because in many cases it is irreversible. The Church Buildings Council is working closely with Natural England and DEFRA to try and find ways of mitigating the burden to churches within the law, and is currently conducting a pilot project in Norfolk to explore ways of encouraging the bats to find alternative accommodation by for example the use of bat boxes outside on the eaves. The results of the pilot will be reported at a conservation conference to be held at Lambeth Palace in November. Norfolk has the highest number of medieval churches in Europe. In many instances bats and congregations can co-exist quite happily. The problems and costs escalate where the bats occupy churches in large numbers. I undertake the hon. Member updated with progress.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Local Government: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the *(a)* proposals and *(b)* timescale are for ward boundary changes in Stoke-on-Trent; and if he will make a statement. [13833]

Mr Streeter: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) informs me that it will publish the final recommendations of its electoral review of Stoke-on-Trent city council on 26 October 2010. Details of the recommendations will be immediately available on the LGBCE's website:

www.lgbce.org.uk

and hard copies will be sent to all local Members of Parliament.

A draft order, intended to implement the LGBCE's final recommendations, will be laid in both Houses of Parliament in January 2011 and will be subject to the negative resolution procedure. Subject to parliamentary approval, new electoral arrangements for the city council will then be implemented at the local elections on 5 May 2011.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Treasury officials on the carbon capture and storage demonstration competition. [13973]

Charles Hendry: A number of constructive discussions have taken place between the Department and HM Treasury, at ministerial level and between officials, regarding various aspects of the carbon capture and storage demonstration competition.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy of the carbon capture and storage demonstration competition. [13975]

Charles Hendry: The Annual Energy Statement and the 2050 Pathways' analysis, published in July 2010, make it clear the Government considers that CCS has the potential to play a vital role in ensuring low carbon and secure energy supplies. This is why we said in the Coalition Programme that we will continue public sector investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology for four coal-fired power stations.

We are continuing support for detailed Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) work as a key element of the first CCS demonstration competition. This work is on course to meet its scheduled conclusion in spring 2011.

We held a Senior Stakeholder Conference in July 2010 to discuss investment in CCS in the UK and have subsequently established the CCS Development Forum. At the conference we also launched a market sounding process to engage with industry on the development of the selection process for future CCS demonstration projects, ahead of our intended launch of a formal call for additional projects by the end of the year.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the reasons for the time taken to begin to construct the first UK power plants using carbon capture and storage. [13976]

Charles Hendry: The complexities associated with delivering a large-scale first-of-a-kind project have contributed to the length of time taken to reach the later stages of the current competition for the first CCS demonstration. We are working within the framework established by the previous Government, while bringing forward the project for subsequent completion. Learning from that process will enable us to introduce a more streamlined approach to selecting future demonstration projects for support.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish the Carbon Capture and Storage Road Map. [13977]

Charles Hendry: We expect to publish the CCS Roadmap in spring 2011. Since May we have held a Senior Stakeholder conference on encouraging investment in CCS in the UK and published the 2050 Pathways call for evidence. Feedback from this engagement with stakeholders will feed into the Roadmap and the new CCS Development Forum, which we launched in July, will help guide its development.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to introduce environmental performance standards to regulate carbon emissions from coal-fired power stations; and if he will make a statement. [15193]

Charles Hendry: The Government committed, in the coalition agreement, to the establishment of an emissions performance standard (EPS) that will prevent coal-fired power stations being built unless they are equipped with sufficient carbon capture and storage (CCS) to meet the EPS. The consultation in autumn 2010 on electricity market reform will consider how an EPS would be introduced alongside wider reform of the electricity market. An EPS may interact with many of the other policy instruments being considered. With significant challenges ahead for the energy sector and a need for substantial new investment in order to deliver secure, affordable and low carbon energy, it will be critical that all action taken over the next decade and beyond is closely aligned, and that the impacts an EPS may have on the market alongside other mechanisms are properly understood.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Hunterston

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what national policy considerations will be taken into account in deciding on the application for consent for a coal-fired power station at Hunterston. [14842]

Charles Hendry: Applications to build and operate power stations over 50 MW in Scotland are made to the Scottish Ministers. This is a devolved matter, and the UK Government cannot intervene in individual applications.

Energy policy is generally a matter reserved to UK Ministers and so UK energy policy, as reflected in the proposed national policy statements or set out elsewhere, may be a relevant consideration in planning decisions in Scotland.

It would not be appropriate to comment specifically on the Hunterston proposal as it is a live planning application.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to analyse the distributional effect of options for reductions in his Department's expenditure. [14960]

Gregory Barker: In light of their commitments to fairness and social mobility, the Government will look closely at the effects of their decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions. As part of the Spending Review process, DECC has shared with HMT analysis, both qualitative and quantitative, of the distributional impact of energy and climate change policies.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13317]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not keep a central record of staff attending external training events and the associated costs therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Insulation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 148-9W, on housing insulation, whether the target of insulating every home with cavity wall and loft insulation where technically possible by 2015 is one of the binding targets referred to in the answer. [13482]

Gregory Barker: The legally binding targets referred to in my answer of 6 July are those defined in 2008 under the first three Carbon Budgets. For the Homes and Communities sector this equates to a 29% cut in CO_2 emissions by 2020 from a 2008 baseline.

We are confident that Green Deal, together with supporting measures such as the new energy company obligation, will enable us to achieve or go beyond the ambition level of this target. In the meantime, our decision to extend the carbon emissions reduction target to December 2012 will ensure we are on track to make significant progress by 2015, including the completion of all remaining loft and cavity wall installations where technically practical.

Microgeneration: Finance

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage UK businesses to invest in small-scale renewable energy projects. [13972]

Charles Hendry: The Government are fully committed to meeting their renewables targets and as part of this are keen to encourage small scale electricity generation through the Feed-in Tariff scheme.

We are also equally committed to taking action on renewable heat; this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security. The Government are considering responses to the Renewable Heat Incentive consultation and will set out detailed proposals on how to take forward action on renewable heat through the Spending Review.

The Government also launched a new Microgeneration Strategy in July, a collaborative consultation process which will aim to tackle non-financial barriers to development of the microgeneration market. This was followed by a roundtable discussion chaired by Greg Barker with key stakeholders. Business along with communities and householders wishing to invest in small scale onsite energy generation should benefit from this strategy

We are also taking additional measures to boost the deployment of renewables, to which I would refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him today to question 13970.

National Grid: Offshore Industry

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to increase the National Grid's infrastructure capacity to facilitate offshore energy projects; and if he will make a statement. [15089]

Charles Hendry: We are putting in place a competitive licensing regime to connect offshore wind farms to the onshore grid. In its role as system operator, National Grid's licence means it has a clear role to work with offshore grid developers to facilitate a co-ordinated and efficient offshore network. Ofgem has given clear guidance to the system operator in fulfilling these extended duties offshore. In its role as the transmission company for England and Wales, National Grid along with the two Scottish onshore transmission owners will make proposals to Ofgem for any necessary onshore reinforcements to connect offshore wind farms to the onshore network. Ofgem then approve the expenditure necessary for transmission companies to deliver any new grid infrastructure capacity efficiently.

National Grid: Renewable Energy

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the cost of the expansion of the national grid required to accommodate expected levels of renewable electricity generation in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [15090]

Charles Hendry: To accommodate the expected growth in offshore wind generation, we estimate that at least £15 billion will be required for the transmission infrastructure to connect offshore wind farms to the onshore grid.

In addition, the onshore grid will need to be upgraded to accommodate the planned growth in offshore wind generation as well as for the growth of onshore renewable and other low carbon generation. The March 2009 Electricity Networks Strategy Group '2020 Vision' report:

http://www.ensg.gov.uk/assets/1696-01-ensg_vision2020.pdf

set out the potential extra onshore transmission investments needed to connect the significant changes in the generation mix to 2020. This estimated that upgrading onshore grid could require up to £4.7 billion of new investment over the next decade.

Power Stations: Offshore Industry

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures are in place to encourage the location of power stations required for the collection of offshore energy to be sited on *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* industrial sites. [15084]

Charles Hendry: Developers and consenting authorities can be expected to assess a proposed location in terms of, among other factors, prevailing planning policy and any emphasis in that on brownfield or industrial locations.

Renewable Energy

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to publish its delivery plan for renewable energy. [13970]

Charles Hendry: We plan to publish our renewables delivery plan in the spring which will set out how we can deliver, from an exceedingly low base, the legal commitment to supply 15% of our energy from renewables sources by 2020.

We are also already taking additional measures to boost the deployment of renewables:

> We have asked the Committee on Climate Change for advice on the scope for a more ambitious target for renewables through to 2030. They have already indicated that the legacy inherited by the coalition will make going beyond the 15% by 2020 unrealistic, and we look forward to receiving their further analysis in the spring;

> We will allow communities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rates they generate. This should help encourage local authorities to support suitable projects brought forward by business;
>
> We have overturned the law preventing local authorities from selling renewable electricity to the grid.
>
> We have taken immediate action to exploit the potential of bio-electricity and energy from waste by grandfathering support under the renewables obligation for electricity from waste, anaerobic digestion and advanced conversion technologies, such as pyrolysis and gasification. We will publish in the autumn a joint industry/Government action plan to deliver a huge increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion;
>
> We are supporting six projects under the third round of the Offshore Wind Demonstration Call;
>
> We will be appointing Offshore Transmission Operators (OFTOs) through competitive tenders to build and maintain grids in UK waters, with an expected £15 billion of investment required to 2020. We have already appointed three OFTOs to manage £700 million of offshore grid assets; and
>
> We are currently consulting on a hew microgeneration strategy aimed at ensuring that smaller scale technologies reach their full potential to deliver low carbon heat and electricity in households and at community scales.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to replace the Low Carbon Buildings Programme with the Renewable Heat Incentive once the former expires. [14918]

Gregory Barker: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) was closed on 24 May 2010. It was anticipated that support for heat under LCBP would continue up until the introduction of the Government's action on renewable heat, scheduled for April 2010. However, as part of the Government's commitment to delivering £6 billion of departmental spending cuts in 2010-11, the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) was closed early to contribute £3 million to the £43 million savings that result from cutting or slowing down planned departmental expenditure.

The LCBP has been successful in increasing the uptake of low carbon buildings technology in the UK. Applications worth £63 million for payment in 2010-11 will not be affected by the cuts and where grant offer letters have been issued they will be processed. Applications that were received before the programme was closed and pass the standard due diligence test applied to all applications will be honoured. All projects are to be completed by 31 March 2011.

The Government are fully committed to taking action on renewable heat and are currently considering responses to the Renewable Heat Incentive consultation that closed on the 26 April 2010. We will set but detailed proposals for taking forward the Government's commitment to renewable heat through the spending review.

Wind Power: Noise

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what investigations his Department has commissioned into noise from wind farms; and from whom. [15362]

Charles Hendry: I have recently commissioned an analysis of matters arising in the consideration of noise impacts in the determination of wind farm developments in England. The project will seek to establish best practice in assessing and rating wind turbine noise as applied by specialist acoustics consultants by investigating previous decisions, to ensure that the ETSU-R-97 is applied in a consistent and effective manner (though the project will not revisit ETSU itself). The project will be looking at decisions made at all levels of the planning system.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which officials from which sections of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Departments were involved in determining and drafting the remit of the contract awarded to the Hayes McKenzie Partnership to investigate the implementation of ETSU-R-97 guidance; and whether any such official is on secondment from industry. [15363]

Charles Hendry: The head of the land-based renewables team within the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment, Sarah Rhodes, has responsibility for onshore wind policy and for the award of a contract to the Hayes McKenzie Partnership. Junior officials from her team were directly involved in the contractual process, together with others from DEFRA (including advice from DEFRA's expert acoustic advisers) and CLG. None of these officials are on secondment from industry or any other organisation.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what reports he has received on *(a)* challenges to the ETSU-R-97 method for the assessment and rating of noise from wind farms made by expert acousticians at planning inquiries and *(b)* the views of planning inspectors on the appropriateness of the ETSU method. [15364]

Charles Hendry: The Department is aware from various sources, including planning decisions, that some expert acousticians at planning inquiries have challenged aspects of the ETSU-R-97 method and its implementation. This is for a number of reasons including the way in which it has been implemented, which is why I have asked Hayes McKenzie to carry out new analysis of this particular issue. In the light of such concerns presented to them, planning inspectors have reflected these comments. Planning inspectors are, however, aware that ETSU-R-97 remains the applicable guidance for assessing and rating noise from wind energy developments.

Wind Power: Planning

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans the Government have to introduce a statutory two-kilometre buffer zone between wind farms and residential areas. [14557]

Charles Hendry: There are currently no plans to introduce a proximity rule. The assessment of an application to develop a wind farm already includes, among other things, an analysis of visual and landscape impacts to ascertain whether the location and height of the wind farm is acceptable. The Government consider that these impacts are best assessed on a case by case basis so that local factors can be taken fully into account, regardless of whether applications are dealt with at national or local level. Where applications are dealt with at local level, we believe that councils should have the opportunity to decide these matters on behalf of their local community.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran

15. **Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [14860]

Mr Hague: We would welcome improved relations with Iran. Improved relations will come with the Iranian Government engaging in good faith with the E3 plus 3 on its nuclear programme and improving its increasingly poor human rights record.

Turkey: EU Accession

18. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the advantages and disadvantages to the UK of Turkey's accession to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [14863]

Mr Lidington: The case for Turkey's EU membership, subject to rigorous accession criteria, is clearer than ever. As a country with a rapidly growing economy and increasing international influence, including in the Middle East, Turkey's membership would bring increased prosperity and security for the UK.

EU Treaties

19. **Chris Skidmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the process for UK ratification of future EU treaties. [14864]

Mr Lidington: I refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement of 13 September 2010, *Official Report,* columns 31-33WS. The Government are clear that there should be no further transfers of sovereignty or powers from the UK to the EU in this Parliament. We will introduce legislation to ensure that any subsequent future treaty that proposes to transfer competence or power from the UK to the EU will be subject to a referendum of the British people before it can be ratified by the UK.

Pakistan

20. **Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of UK relations with Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [14865]

Alistair Burt: The UK and Pakistan have a strong relationship, demonstrated by our offering some £64 million to help with flood relief. We are committed to a long-term, productive and friendly partnership with Pakistan, based on the enhanced strategic dialogue announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Zardari on 6 August.

Narco-terrorism: Mexico

21. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has given to the government of Mexico to counter narco-terrorism. [14866]

Mr Bellingham: I will reply to my hon. Friend shortly.

Middle East

22. **Mr McCann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of terrorist acts by Hamas on the Middle East peace process. [14867]

Alistair Burt: The UK along with international community recognise Hamas retain the ability to damage the peace process. We condemn the recent acts of terrorism and they must not be allowed to derail the talks. We call on all parties to refrain from any activity that could undermine the search for a just and lasting settlement.

Corruption: Afghanistan

23. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in reducing levels of corruption in Afghanistan. [14868]

Alistair Burt: Since the hon. Member last asked this question in June 2010, President Karzai has made further commitments on priority areas for tackling corruption at the Kabul conference. It is now essential that the Afghan Government deliver on these commitments through concrete action.

The Commonwealth

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives he plans to introduce to reinvigorate the Commonwealth; and if he will make a statement. [14847]

Mr Hague: We believe we need to think afresh about the UK's relationship with the Commonwealth and encourage other member states to work with us to reinvigorate this extraordinary organisation.

We will encourage the Eminent Persons Group and Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group review to issue strong recommendations ahead of the Heads of Government meeting in 2011.

Human Rights: Sri Lanka

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed human rights issues with his Sri Lankan counterpart. [14852]

Alistair Burt: We regularly raise human rights with the Government of Sri Lanka. Following the end of the conflict, there has been an improvement in the human rights situation, but we remain concerned about the difficult environment for freedom of expression and reports of continued paramilitary activity in the north.

Afghanistan: Chevening Scholarships

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people from Afghanistan were awarded a Chevening scholarship in academic year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10. [14310]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend Lord Howell of Guildford to Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer on 27 July 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA315, giving the number of Chevening scholars from each country over the last five years. For Afghanistan the figures are *(a)* 10, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* 13.

Departmental Responsibilities

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's Chief Executive Officer since 6 May 2010. [15393]

Alistair Burt: Simon Fraser, our new Permanent Under-Secretary of State, started on 27 August 2010, and like his predecessors, has participated in a number of meetings and other events with the ministerial team as part of the normal course of business. We do not keep records of such contact.

Diplomatic Service: Flags

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on purchasing and installing European Union flags at UK diplomatic posts in the last five years. [14709]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* Information for the cost of purchasing and installing the European Union flag at UK diplomatic posts is not held centrally, and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Falkland Islands: Sovereignty

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries in north, central and south America recognise British sovereignty in the Falkland Islands. [15339]

Alistair Burt: The majority of north, central and south American countries do not recognise either British or Argentine sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, although most do support Argentine calls for dialogue over sovereignty. However, the UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, and the principle of self determination underlies this position. There can be no negotiations on sovereignty unless and until the islanders so wish. The UN continues to recognise UK administration of the Falkland Islands.

Indonesia: Religion

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to take steps to assist civil society organisations to promote religious pluralism, religious freedom and counter-extremism in Indonesia. [15322]

Alistair Burt: We support the work of civil society organisations in Indonesia working to promote religious freedom and counter-extremism. We have contributed funds to a variety of projects including: to help strengthen the capacity of institutions to foster tolerance, mutual understanding, moderation, violence reduction and de-radicalisation; capacity building for religious leaders; and engaging radical Muslim communities in the promotion of human rights in Indonesia.

In July, my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Jeremy Browne, highlighted the emphasis the UK places on counter radicalisation at a post-Friday prayers discussion at the Islamic State University Syarif Hidayatullah in Jakarta. We will continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia.

Mexico: Overseas Aid

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will increase the level of assistance the Government is giving to the Government of Mexico to combat *(a)* drug trafficking, *(b)* human trafficking and *(c)* narco-terrorism. [14095]

Nick Herbert: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Government support the efforts of the Mexican Government to combat trans-national organised crime. We have done so on a bilateral basis, providing support through various law-enforcement exchanges and projects. These include expert visits from the National Police Improvement Agency and the Metropolitan Police, as well as various projects supporting Mexico to reform its criminal justice system. The Serious Organised Crime Agency has also offered specialist assistance.

We have also provided support alongside European Union partners, through the formal EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership. Within this Partnership, we have worked with the Mexican Government on improving the capacity of their federal police force on forensics, police intelligence, interview techniques, surveillance, trial testimony and the methodology of investigation.

We will continue to work with the Mexican Government.

There is no evidence to suggest that Mexico has a direct impact on the United Kingdom in relation to human trafficking or that Mexican organised crime groups are linked with terrorism.

Nuclear Weapons: Research

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he received the report, Verifying warhead dismantlement: Past, present, future, commissioned from the Verification Technology Information Centre as part of the UK-Norway Initiative on verified warhead dismantlement; how much this research cost; and what steps he plans to take as a result of the report. [15003]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office received the Verification Technology Information Centre's (VERTIC) independent report on the UK-Norway Initiative on 2 September 2010.

The Ministry of Defence paid VERTIC £40,431 between 2008 and 2009 for research, two reports and independent oversight of the UK-Norway Initiative which has been well received internationally for its contribution to disarmament efforts.

We are considering the results of the report. The UK and Norway are working together on a future programme of co-operation to develop the UK-Norway Initiative.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on allegations that Sri Lankan security forces committed war crimes during the conflict with the Tamil Tigers. [15128]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports by non-governmental organisations and governments which allege that war crimes were committed by both sides in the final months of the military conflict which ended in May 2009. We have raised our concerns about these allegations with senior members of the Sri Lankan Government, including the President and Foreign Minister. We have consistently urged the Government to undertake an independent and credible investigation into these allegations. A process of accountability could play an important role in achieving post-conflict reconciliation.

UK Membership of EU

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the level of public support for continued UK membership of the EU. [15340]

Mr Lidington: Ratification of the Lisbon Treaty without a referendum has damaged public confidence in the European Union (EU). The Government's forthcoming EU Bill will help restore that confidence by ensuring that voters will have their say over any future EU Treaty or Treaty amendment that transfers competence from the United Kingdom to the European Union.

The Government believe the United Kingdom's interests are best served by membership of a European Union that is an association of its member states.

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals for a referendum on whether the UK should remain a member of the EU. [15341]

Mr Lidington: The Government do not propose a referendum on this issue. Membership of the then EEC was approved by the British electorate in a referendum in 1975. This Government believe that membership of the EU is in the United Kingdom's national interest.

Over the next five years we intend to champion vigorously the interests of the United Kingdom and play an active role in the EU. We believe that that the EU needs to change and that the EU can do things better, and we are confident in Britain's ability to move the EU in the right direction. The Government are clear in its objective to improve the democratic accountability of EU decision making.

UN Security Council

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes the UK is seeking in the composition of the UN Security Council. [15007]

Mr Bellingham: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said on 1 July:

> 'this Government will be at the forefront of those arguing for the expansion of the United Nations Security Council'.

We are clear and unambiguous in our support for a reformed Council and consider that the number of permanent seats should be increased to include Japan, India, Germany, Brazil and African representation.

United Nations: Reform

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's objectives are for the reform of the United Nations. [15008]

Mr Bellingham: We need a strong UN to resolve and manage international challenges such as conflict prevention and resolution, proliferation of nuclear weapons, international terrorism and climate change. We shall work with other member states to modernise UN practices, to make the UN more effective and to strengthen its capacity to deliver where most needed. It also remains vital that the UN balances member states' demands for activity with sustainable budget levels, and that the costs of UN activity are apportioned fairly among member states.

The UN Security Council is the only global body that has the legitimacy and moral authority to respond to global threats to peace and security. It needs to become more representative of the modern world, but at the same time no less effective in taking necessary decisions to maintain international peace and security. We support permanent seats on a reformed Council for Japan, India, Germany, Brazil and African representation.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the lowest geographical level is at which data on the turnout and result of the proposed alternative vote referendum will be *(a)* recorded and *(b)* published. [13710]

Mr Harper: Under the provisions in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill ("the Bill") the referendum on the voting system will be run on local authority boundaries in Great Britain. As a consequence of this the lowest geographical level at which data on the turnout and result of the poll will be recorded and published will be local authority boundaries in England, Wales and Scotland. Northern Ireland is treated as a single area for the purpose of the referendum and so a single turnout figure and result will be available in Northern Ireland.

Constituencies

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse was of the last review of parliamentary constituencies in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Scotland; and what the estimated cost of the next review of constituency boundaries is in England, Wales and Scotland. [13420]

Mr Harper: Information relating to the costs of the last general review of constituency boundaries in England and Wales and Scotland is set out in the following table:

Cost of last general review

	£
England and Wales	11,459,534
Scotland	957,120

We estimate that a boundary review on the basis set out in the PVSC Bill would cost a total of between £11.2 and £11.6 million in England, Scotland and Wales.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate has been made of the costs of the boundary review proposed in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill. [13801]

Mr Harper: We estimate that a boundary review on the basis set out in the PVSC Bill would cost between £12.4 and £13.2 million.

TREASURY

Capital Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of maintaining company capital allowances at May 2010 levels. [15222]

Mr Gauke: The annual cost to the Exchequer of maintaining capital allowances at May 2010 levels is currently around £20 billion around 85% of which relates to companies.

The tax cost of capital allowances for companies is expected to reduce by around £2 billion a year once the changes announced in the June 2010 Budget come into effect fully.

Child Benefit: Sunderland

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are in receipt of child benefit in *(a)* Washington and Sunderland West constituency and *(b)* the City of Sunderland. [14301]

Mr Gauke: The constituency referred to in the question—Washington and Sunderland West—was formed after August 2009. The information for the new constituency would be available only at disproportionate cost.

The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2009". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf.

Child Trust Fund: Sunderland

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in Washington and Sunderland West constituency have received payments from the Child Trust Fund in each year since its inception. [14300]

Mr Hoban: Each Child Trust Fund (CTF) account that is opened currently receives a payment from the Government with an additional payment being made in the case of children in lower income families. Statistics showing the numbers of CTF accounts opened in each parliamentary constituency can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

The latest statistics were published in November 2009 and show the number of CTF accounts for children born on or before 5 April 2008 for the parliamentary constituencies as they stood at 5 April 2009.

Debts: Interest Charges

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 238W, on debts: interest charges, if he will estimate the revenue which would be raised in 2010-11 if the tax deductibility of interest payments on debt were removed from financial corporations. [8241]

Mr Gauke: The estimate provided in the answer of 23 June was based on an assessment of the impact of removing the tax deductibility of interest payments net of taxable interest receipts for non-financial corporations. The majority of non-financial corporations are in a net interest payment position, paying more interest than they receive. Any restriction of the tax deductibility of this amount will raise revenue.

In contrast, financial corporations tend to be net recipients of interest, and this forms part of their profits. While particular corporations in the financial sector may find themselves in a net interest paying position in some years, it is expected that very little revenue would be raised by removing the tax deductibility of net interest payments from the financial sector as a whole. The detailed information required to make such an estimate is not available.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions. [10172]

Justine Greening: The Efficiency and Reform Group within the Cabinet Office is leading on the review and renegotiation of Government contracts across all Government Departments which will look at all aspects of contracts including a termination. The Treasury is focusing its resources on reviewing the contracts with its top suppliers, representing approximately 60% of total HMT procurement expenditure.

Departmental Furniture

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* officials and *(b)* staff representatives on (i) his proposals for (A) smaller desks in his Department's offices and (B) the provision in his Department of office accommodation for civil servants of another central Government department and (ii) the implications of each for the working environment in his Department; [14693]

(2) how many larger desks he intends to be removed from his Department's offices; how many replacement smaller desks will be ordered; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the replacement desks; and what plans he has for the desks which are to be removed; [14694]

(3) what size his desk is; and what the *(a)* cost is and *(b)* dimensions are of his proposed replacement smaller desk; [14689]

(4) what proportion of his Department's office accommodation he has offered to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport as office accommodation for staff of that Department; and when he expects such office accommodation to become available. [14691]

Justine Greening: The Treasury is currently considering ways to improve the usage of workspace in 1 Horse Guards Road. The aim is to increase the occupancy of the building and provide a modern, efficient and effective workspace.

There are approximately 430 desks in use in 1 Horse Guards Road that were relocated from the Treasury's former accommodation following refurbishment of the building in 2002. There is an opportunity to replace these with a more efficient workspace solution that will free up space and enable the occupancy of the building to be increased. The intention is to advertise the availability of any suitable surplus desks to other departments.

The Treasury is working with all other departments across Government to investigate the benefits of co-location of staff.

Departmental Internet

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason access to his Department's Spending Challenge website was temporarily suspended. [13872]

Justine Greening: The Government received over 45,000 ideas on the spending challenge public website and the vast majority were constructive and helpful. As per the site's strict moderation policy, we have been clear that offensive ideas and comments are not welcome. A dedicated team kept a close eye on content posted in order to remove the minority of ideas that were inappropriate as soon as possible.

In response to a small number of malicious attacks we took action to disable certain interactive features on the website. These measures were designed to prevent malicious use but still allow the public to have their say on the spending challenge.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them taken by *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility. [12264]

Justine Greening: We are determined that the spending review will be guided by our principles of freedom, fairness and responsibility. Our aim is to run an open spending review process that strengthens and unites our country by engaging and involving all parts of society, including young people, in the difficult decisions that have to be taken, whether by Ministers, officials or public bodies.

To achieve this, the Government have undertaken a broad programme of public engagement ranging from regional visits by Ministers to the Spending Challenge website, which young members of the public are able to become involved in. Ministers from all Departments have been conducting regional visits around the country to meet local communities and to see innovative and efficient ways of delivering public services first-hand. This is one strand of the SR engagement process.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for future taxation of *(a)* petrol and *(b)* diesel. [13661]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor has asked the Office for Budget Responsibility to undertake an assessment over the summer of the effect of oil price fluctuations on the public finances. Informed by this assessment, the Government will examine options for the design of a fair fuel stabiliser. Any changes to the taxation of petrol and diesel would be announced in due course by the Chancellor.

I also refer the Member for East Lothian to the answer on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W.

Families

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions about family structure the Government made in preparing the June 2010 Budget. [15235]

Mr Gauke: In producing the analysis in Annex A of the June 2010 Budget document the family structures used were those reported in the Expenditure and Food survey, grossed to national level estimates using factors supplied by the Office for National Statistics.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 29 July on Equitable Life. [13884]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 4 August 2010.

Office for National Statistics

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the effect of the organisational structure of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the *(a)* collection and *(b)* duplication of data provided to the ONS by the private sector. [14098]

Mr Gauke: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial Department, which reports directly to Parliament. As such the ONS has independence on the execution of its duties. As with other users of ONS outputs, the Treasury provides views on ONS performance and priorities through the ONS stakeholder consultation process.

Social Enterprises

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions have taken place on introduction of a social enterprise legal definition and tax relief model. [13793]

Justine Greening: The Government are committed to creating an environment in the UK which enables social enterprise to thrive.

Like other businesses, there is no single legal form for social enterprise. No one legal form will ever be right for all social enterprises.

Social enterprises with charitable status get tax relief on all profits generated from trading for their primary purpose and some profits from non-primary purpose trading. They are also entitled to 100% business rate relief and can claim Gift Aid on donations made to them. But these reliefs come with a heavy regulatory burden which many social enterprises find restrictive.

Social enterprises which do not have charitable status pay taxes in the same way as other businesses. They can also benefit from the same tax reliefs available to other private businesses.

Tax Avoidance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of tax avoidance by *(a)* large businesses, *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(c)* individuals in the next (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [14208]

Mr Gauke: No such estimates have been made.

HMRC published the latest available estimates of the tax gap, for the year 2007-08, in December 2009 in Measuring Tax Gaps 2009

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.pdf.

Tax Evasion

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to provide the same level of funding for advertising to highlight tax evasion as is spent on highlighting benefit fraud; and if he will make a statement. [14368]

Mr Gauke: The Government's spending plans, including those for HMRC, will be set out in the spending review to be published on 20 October 2010.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce tax evasion on the part of businesses; and if he will make a statement. [14473]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to combating tax evasion. HMRC set out its compliance strategy and its approach to reducing the tax gap in 'Protecting Tax Revenues 2009' available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

Karl McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to recover sums lost to the Exchequer in *(a)* value added tax and *(b)* alcohol duty arising from the sale of alcohol below cost price by supermarket chains; [14922]

(2) what estimate he has made of the sums lost to the Exchequer in *(a)* value added tax and *(b)* alcohol duty arising from the sale of alcohol at below cost price by supermarket chains. [14923]

Mr Gauke: There is no legal basis on which HM Revenue and Customs could recover value added tax lost to the Exchequer on the sale of alcohol below cost price, and so no assessment has been made of what VAT revenue may have been lost by such marketing.

Alcohol duty is a specific tax; duty paid does not depend on its final sale price.

Taxation: Rebates

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people his Department expects to be exempted from payment of tax arrears under Extra-Statutory Concession A19 in 2010-11. [14617]

Mr Gauke: Extra Statutory Concession A19 allows HMRC to forgo the collection of tax arrears in certain circumstances. The concession is available in circumstances where all the information has been provided to HMRC and it has had the opportunity to address it. Individuals can find further guidance at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/esc/esc.htm

HMRC does not have an estimate of how many people the A19 concession will apply to in 2010-11 as each case will be considered on its own merits. The concession, which is well established, does not apply that often in practice, and I do not want people to build up their hopes that it will offer some kind of panacea; that would be unfair on taxpayers.

VAT

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much net revenue he estimates will be raised by the planned increase in value added tax. [14397]

Mr Gauke: Costings for measures in the June 2010 Budget can be found in Table 2.1 of Budget 2010 (HC61). Further details can be found in Annex C of that document, and in the supplementary document "Budget 2010 Policy Costings".

VAT: Publications

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to introduce a zero rate of value added tax on e-books. [14277]

Mr Gauke: While there is a long-standing zero rate of VAT for printed matter, there are no plans to extend this to e-books. Agreements with our EU partners prevent us from extending the scope of existing zero rates, or introducing new ones.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on pensioners of the proposed rise in the standard rate of value added tax. [11265]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Clwyd South (Susan Elan Jones) on 19 July *Official Report*, column 170W.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Artist Resale Rights Regulations 2006

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to monitor the level of compliance with the provisions of the Artist Resale Rights Regulations 2006 by auction houses in respect of their liabilities to make payments as agents of the seller. [14906]

Mr Davey: The collection of royalties under this legislation, such as payments by auction houses, is undertaken by the collecting societies concerned. Article 15 of the Artist Resale Rights Regulations 2006 gives the artist or his or her agent the right to obtain information about sales and applicable royalty payments. The Government undertake no such monitoring.

Banks: Loans

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the availability of credit to small and medium-sized enterprises. [14104]

Mr Davey: Data provided to BIS from the four main lenders to SMEs show that demand for finance remains subdued, with the number of applications for loans and overdrafts down 8% for Q2 2010 compared to Q2 2009, and over a fifth down on the corresponding quarter in 2008.

However, approval rates have improved over the past year, to over 70% for loans and over 80% for overdrafts, for businesses with a turnover of sub-£1 million. Also, there remains significant headroom in overdraft facilities, with utilisation at around 55%.

Nevertheless, we are aware that problems still exist in the market and ensuring the flow of credit to SMEs and that customers are treated fairly is a core priority of the Government.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with banks on the provision of loans to small and medium-sized enterprises. [14105]

Mr Davey: Ministers from BIS, including myself, as well as officials, have regular discussions with the banks both at industry-wide level and bilaterally, and we continue to receive data from the banks on the demand for and supply of credit.

Furthermore, the recent Green Paper 'Financing a private sector recovery' announced the British Bankers Association-led taskforce which will identify, analyse and review ways the banking system can, over the next three years, help viable UK businesses of all size access appropriate finance and other support. Both BIS and HMT are working closely with the taskforce, which is due to report before the spending review.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on bank lending to small and medium-sized businesses since 22 June 2010. [14138]

Mr Davey: Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills meet regularly with their HMT counterparts, including as part of the Cabinet Committee on banking reform, which considers issues relating to banking.

Business: Bury

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support the Northwest regional development agency has provided to businesses in Bury North constituency in the last three years. [13775]

Mr Davey: The Northwest regional development agency's primary business support channel, Business Link Northwest, provided support to businesses in the area on some 4,400 occasions. This included 359 businesses receiving intensive support through an adviser.

The agency has also funded the intensive start-up support service which has resulted in 280 business starts since September 2007, and has supported 19 companies through a range of business finance products.

The NWDA and UKTI-funded north-west international trade programme has supported 99 companies. There have also been three Foreign Direct Investment projects in Bury since April 2007 which have created or safeguarded at least 20 jobs.

Other support available includes business leadership programmes (LEAD), a programme to support high growth businesses, and mentoring for female entrepreneurs. Investment has also been undertaken to support key sectors and large companies.

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to encourage the start up of new business in Bury North; [13787]

(2) how many small businesses ceased to operate in Bury North in the last three years; and what steps he is taking to prevent failures of small businesses. [13788]

Mr Davey: The Government are addressing the challenges that small businesses face to encourage start-ups and prevent failures: providing a predictable tax system that rewards endeavour; reducing red tape; ensuring access to finance; a skilled work-force; and providing support for exports to markets around the globe.

June's Budget announced a series of measures aimed at helping small businesses including:

> A £200 million extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. In total, the EFG will now support up to £700 million in bank lending to viable small businesses.
>
> A new Enterprise Capital Fund to support small businesses with high growth potential—combining both Government and private sector funding.
>
> Confirmation of a Growth Capital Fund, to provide funding of between £2 million and £10 million for SMEs with strong growth potential.

We are committed to introducing a "one-in one-out" rule for new regulations, sunset clauses, and an immediate review of all inherited regulation in the pipeline. We will also make it easier for small businesses to bid for public sector contracts, with an aspiration that 25% of all Government procurement should be from SMEs.

The following table shows the number of registered business deaths in Bury North parliamentary constituency in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The Office for National Statistics will publish data for 2009 on 29 November 2010.

Count of enterprise deaths in Bury North constituency, 2006-08

	Number of enterprise deaths
2006	385
2007	370
2008	420

Note:
This does not capture businesses operating below the VAT threshold (£67,000 in 2008-09) or those that don't have a PAYE scheme.
Source:
Office for National Statistics, Business Demography 2008.

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that no economic activity utilising forced or child labour benefits is undertaken by the companies in receipt of export credit guarantees. [14449]

Mr Davey: It is ECGD's policy to comply with international agreements that apply to the operations of export credit agencies. These include the OECD recommendation on common approaches on the environment and officially supported export credits which states that projects being supported by export credit agencies should comply with the relevant international standards, principally those of the World Bank Group, regarding their environmental impacts including social and human rights. There are no plans to change this.

Exports: Defence

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of UK defence export earnings was attributable to *(a)* manufactured goods and equipment, *(b)* services contracts, *(c)* maintenance contracts and *(d)* other sources in each of the last five years; [15177]

(2) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of UK defence export earnings in each of the last five years. [15178]

Mr Davey: The value of new defence export orders won by UK companies and reported to UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£ billion
2005	4
2006	5.5
2007	9.7
2008	4.3
2009	7.2

The information on new defence export orders supplied to UKTI DSO is not detailed enough to allow a confident breakdown into proportions relating to goods and services.

The value of new business in the security sector for financial year 2008/09 was estimated at £1.4 billion.

Higher Education: Finance

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the average cost to the public purse of providing *(a)* a place at university and *(b)* an apprenticeship. [12005]

Mr Willetts: The information is as follows:

(a) There is no published estimate of the overall average cost to the public purse of an undergraduate university course due to differences in the definitions of which students are eligible for teaching grant and student support. Estimates are however available of expenditure per receiving student per year for each of these components separately:

Teaching expenditure

> In academic year 2008/09, the average teaching grant expenditure per FTE funded student (both undergraduate and postgraduate) was around £4,200 per year. This grant is distributed to institutions by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Student support expenditure

> In 2008/09, around 870,000 students were awarded student support in the form of grants and/or loans. In total £1.136 billion was received in grants at an average of £1,300 per student awarded student support. Maintenance and fee loans for these students totalled £4.698 billion, which would have an average budgetary cost[1] per student awarded student support of around £1,500.

(b) This Department and the Department for Education allocate funds to the Skills Funding Agency for Apprenticeships in England. Spending on 16-18 and adult apprenticeships for the 2008-09 financial year is given in the following table.

Apprenticeship expenditure, England, 2008-09

	£ million
16-18 apprenticeships	630
19+ apprenticeships	347
Total	977

Source:
LSC Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09.

It is not possible to provide a meaningful average cost to the public purse of an apprenticeship. The public cost of delivering an apprenticeship varies significantly depending on the industry; length of the programme; whether the framework is at level 2 or 3; and the apprentice's age. For example, the Skills Funding Agency estimates that it costs around £2,700 to deliver a level 2 adult apprenticeship in business and administration and about £16,000 for an advanced apprenticeship (level 3) in engineering for a 16 to 18-year-old.

[1] The budgetary cost represents the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off the loans issued.

Imports: China

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the market price of aluminium extrusions produced in the UK of the import of aluminium extrusions from China. [14109]

Mr Davey: There has been no such assessment. Extruded aluminium is traded openly all over the world and therefore its price is subject to normal global market forces. Complaints about unfair trade in this product are a matter for the European Commission.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister plans to respond to the letter of 14 July 2010 from the hon. Member for Torbay on the P52 oil drilling platform off the coast of Brazil. [14371]

Mr Prisk: The Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs responded to this letter on 8 September 2010.

National Composites Centre

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the funding arrangements are for the National Composites Centre. [15292]

Mr Davey: The Government fully support the building of the National Composites Centre (NCC). The NCC is being supported by £12 million from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and £4 million from the south west regional development agency (SWRDA). When this is combined with £9 million of funding from the European Regional Development Fund, the total investment will be £25 million.

Northwest Regional Development Agency

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received in support of the retention of the Northwest regional development agency. [14958]

Mr Davey: The Department has received representations from a range of organisations from different sectors advocating retention of the Northwest regional development agency.

Overseas Trade: Algeria

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase trade with Algeria. [14214]

Mr Davey: UK Trade & Investment organises annual trade talks between the UK Trade Minister and his Algerian counterpart. Last talks were held in April 2010 between the then Minister of State for Trade and Investment, and Minister Temmar, Algerian Minister for Industry and Promotion of Investment. These talks form part of the UK-Algeria Ministerial Dialogue Forum which started in 2006. The talks present an opportunity to demonstrate high level commitment to our commercial relationship with Algeria on key sectors of mutual interest. In addition, the full range of UKTI services is available to companies interested in exporting to Algeria.

A number of stakeholders including the Middle East Association (MEA), Arab British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC), Construction Equipment Association (CEA) and British Expertise (BE), run events involving UK companies which include overseas trade missions, seminars, and meetings to promote opportunities in Algeria and to provide up-to-date market information. These are all run in partnership with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI).

UKTI and HMA Algiers have encouraged and supported UK business in the setting up of the UK-side Algerian British Business Council (ABBC) which is taking shape and which it is hoped will be launched in the autumn in Algeria. The purpose of the council is to enhance ties between the two countries' business communities, which will in turn increase trade and investment between the UK and Algeria.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward proposals to simplify the pre-qualification processes for public sector procurement and projects. [13991]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group is undertaking work to further streamline the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) process, significantly reducing the number of core questions that suppliers are required to answer and ensuring that the remaining questions do not discriminate against smaller providers. This will be complemented by sector specific work, for example in the construction sector.

This work forms a part of wider measures to streamline the entire procurement process.

Regeneration: Blackpool

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide funding to regeneration projects in Blackpool allocated funding from the Northwest Development Agency which have been adversely affected by the decision to freeze regional development agency spending allocated from funding from the European Regional Development Fund programme. [15155]

Mr Davey: No.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future ownership of properties owned by regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [14311]

Mr Davey: Regional development agencies (RDAs) own a range of assets which were acquired for regeneration purposes. We will be discussing with RDAs, their partners and other Departments the future ownership of these assets. We will also be agreeing with RDAs and other Departments a set of guiding principles for the disposal or transfer of assets. No final decisions have been made.

Regional Development Agencies: Local Enterprise Partnerships

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the aims and objectives are of *(a)* regional development agencies and *(b)* local economic partnerships. [15250]

Mr Davey: Under the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998, each agency has five statutory purposes, which are:

To further economic development and regeneration;

To promote business efficiency, investment and competitiveness;

To promote employment;

To enhance development and application of skill relevant to employment;

To contribute to sustainable development.

As announced in the Budget on 22 June the RDAs are being abolished and they are currently focused on closure and achieving an orderly transition to the new delivery landscape.

The Government are committed to reforming our system of sub-national economic development. Local groups of councils and business leaders have been invited to put forward proposals for local enterprise partnerships which should include a clear vision for creating the right environment for business and growth in their areas.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the land holdings of regional development agencies will be transferred to the new local enterprise partnerships. [15274]

Mr Davey: We will be discussing with RDAs, their partners and other Departments the future ownership of RDA assets. We will also be agreeing with RDAs and other Departments a set of guiding principles for the disposal or transfer or assets. No final decisions have been made.

Self-employment: Ex-servicemen

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* current and *(b)* former military personnel have (i) sought information on and (ii) received grants under his Department's Be the Boss scheme; and if he will make a statement. [14418]

Mr Davey: The Be the Boss scheme is being delivered by the Royal British Legion. The scheme is open to former members of HM Armed Forces (including members of the Reserve Forces who are not currently on active service) discharged on or after 7 October 2001.

Since the scheme started accepting applications on 14 June 2010, there have been 255 applicants referred for information, advice and guidance, of which 11 have made applications for funding support. 2 have been successful and the remaining 9 are still awaiting a decision.

The Be the Boss website has been viewed by over 2350 people since the start of the scheme.

Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he held with his Department's officials before taking the decision not to proceed with the loan facility to Sheffield Forgemasters; what advice he received on the withdrawal of the loan facility; what assessment his Department made of the affordability of the loan facility compared with that of other projects which were under review; and whether his Department consulted investing partners prior to the decision to withdraw the loan facility. [15251]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on this subject made by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on 27 July, *Official Report*, column 79WS and to the memorandum submitted by the Secretary of State to the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee on 10 August, which was published by the Committee on 7 September.

Skills Funding Agency

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Skills Funding Agency awards monies in respect of contracts with a monetary value of £250,000 or less. [14500]

Mr Hayes: This information is held by the Skills Funding Agency. I have asked the chief executive of Skills Funding, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 9 September 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 3 September 2010 (UIN 14500): To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether the Skills Funding Agency awards monies in respect of contracts with a monetary value of £250,000 or less.

The Skills Funding Agency does currently have contracts for less than £250,000. However, the Skills Funding Agency has previously set out (in Guidance Notes 2,3,4 and 5) its intention to introduction a minimum contract level to achieve efficiencies through rationalising the number of direct contracts it manages.

The Agency's initial plans were to introduce a minimum contract level of £250,000 by the end of the 2010/11 academic year to those organisations that only deliver Train to Gain. However, following the decision to introduce a single budget, it is no longer appropriate to implement the minimum level in this way.

The threshold and application of the minimum contract level is therefore being considered as part of the funding consultation launched on 22nd July "A Simplified Further Education and Skills Funding System and Methodology". The level will be announced in the autumn following the consultation and is likely to be higher than the £250,000 originally planned for those only delivering Train to Gain.

It is expected that the Agency will cease to issue direct contracts to organisations for less than the minimum contract level for 2011/12 (subject to any exceptions agreed following the consultation).

Small Businesses: Derbyshire

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce the burden of regulation for small and medium-sized businesses in High Peak constituency. [15305]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) recognises the importance of SMEs to the UK economy and I can assure my hon. Friend that their considerations are at the forefront of much of the work going on in this Department at present.

The Your Freedom website closed on 10 September—having received nearly 2,500 ideas from the public and businesses regarding burdens and red tape they would like removed. These ideas are now being examined by officials across the Government.

Additionally, following on from the Your Freedom suggestions, BIS and the Better Regulation Executive are running a programme of regional dialogue meetings, to gather more detail from SMEs about potential solutions to particular regulations that impact on them, which we hope will improve the business environment in the UK, including my hon. Friend's constituency.

Trade Unions

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many paid officials in *(a)* his Department and its agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility are full-time trade union officials; what the total annual remuneration is for each such official; and if he will make a statement. [13914]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills currently employs 3.0 full-time departmental trade union side officers at an approximate total cost of £90,000 per annum.

The Department's agencies Companies House, Insolvency Service, Skills Funding Agency, IPO and NMO will be responding separately to this question.

We do not centrally hold records on trade union officials employed by the non-departmental public bodies. The compilation of this information would be at a disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 7 September 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 3 September 2010, UIN 13914 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House employs one paid official who is a full-time trade union official. The total annual remuneration for this official is £23,767.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 7 September 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 03/09/2010 [reference 2010/1236] to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many paid officials in (a) his Department and its agencies and (b) non-departmental public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility are full-time trade union officials; what the total annual remuneration is for each such official.

The National Measurement Office does not have any full-time trade union Officials

Letter from John Alty, dated 7 September 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 03/09/2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The IPO does not employ any full-time trade union officials.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 9 September 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary question tabled on 3 September 2010 (UIN 13914). To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many paid officials in (a) his Department and its agencies and (b) non-departmental public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility are full-time trade union officials; what the total annual remuneration is for each such official; and if he will make a statement.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010 and since that date has not employed any full-time trade union officials.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 September 2010:

The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many paid officials in (a) his Department and its agencies and (b) non-departmental public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility are full-time trade union officials; what the total annual remuneration is for each such official; and if he will make a statement.

The Insolvency Service employs two full time trade union officials and their combined salaries total £64,660.

JUSTICE

Cookham Wood Secure Training Centre

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restraint techniques have been used on girls held at Medway secure training centre in each month since 1998. [14230]

Mr Blunt: All secure establishments submit monthly data on the number of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs) to the YJB. An RPI is defined as:

> "Any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a young person. Overpower is defined as 'restricting movement or mobility'".

Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

The YJB has only collected data against this definition since April 2007. There were 349 uses of RPI on girls at Medway during the period April 2007 to March 2009.

The latest data available are for 2008-09. The data from 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the 2009-10 annual YJB workload statistics.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Month	*Number of restraints on girls*	*Number of girls involved in restraints*
2007		
April	19	10
May	18	7
June	19	11
July	59	16
August	22	10
September	15	8
October	27	12
November	10	5
December	13	9
2008		
January	11	6
February	4	2
March	2	1
April	15	11
May	7	5
June	7	7
July	15	7
August	16	10
September	21	8
October	9	7
November	5	4
December	11	5
2009		
January	4	3
February	7	5
March	13	9

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* injuries and *(b)* injuries requiring external medical treatment were sustained during restraint incidents on girls held in Medway secure training centre in each month since 1998. [14231][1]

Mr Blunt: The YJB has collected data since April 2007 showing the number of injuries in each category, but this data is not broken down by gender.

The definitions for these categories are:

Minor injury requiring medical treatment

This includes cuts, scratches, grazes, blood noses, concussion, serious bruising and sprains where medical treatment is given by a member of staff or a nurse. Treatment could include cleaning and dressing wounds, providing pain relief, and monitoring symptoms by a health professional (e.g. in relation to concussion). This includes first aid administered by a staff member.

Serious injury requiring hospital treatment

This includes serious cuts, fractures, loss of consciousness and damage to internal organs. Where 24-hour health care is available the young person may remain onsite. At other establishments, the young person will be taken to a local hospital. Treatment will reflect the more serious nature of the injuries sustained and may include stitches, re-setting bones, operations and providing overnight observation.

It is currently a contractual requirement for any young person within an STC who has been restrained to be visited by a registered nurse within thirty minutes following the use of restraint.

The latest data available are for 2008-09 and are provided in the table as follows. The data from 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the 2009-10 annual YJB workload statistics.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Number of injuries sustained during restraint incidents by severity of injury

	Minor injury requiring medical treatment	*Serious injury requiring hospital treatment*
April 2007	7	0
May 2007	8	0
June 2007	4	0
July 2007	13	0
August 2007	2	0
September 2007	3	0
October 2007	3	0
November 2007	7	0
December 2007	4	0
January 2008	7	0
February 2008	4	0
March 2008	5	0
April 2008	1	0
May 2008	2	0
June 2008	3	0
July 2008	1	0
August 2008	1	0
September 2008	3	0
October 2008	4	0
November 2008	4	0
December 2008	3	0
January 2009	1	0
February 2009	4	0
March 2009	7	0

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls have been held in solitary confinement at Medway secure training centre in each month since 1998. [14232]

Mr Blunt: The practice of "solitary confinement" is not one that takes place in STCs. There is provision in the STC rules for removal from association which can be used in the following circumstances and is limited to a maximum of three continuous hours or an aggregate of three hours within any 24 hour period:

Prevention of harm to themselves or others;

Prevention of significant damage to property.

The YJB has collected data on the use of single separation since April 2007. The number of incidents of single separation since April 2007 is outlined in the table.

The latest data available are for 2008-09. The data from 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the 2009-10 annual YJB Workload statistics.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Incidents of single separation

	Boys	*Girls*
2007		
April	15	8
May	22	8

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[1] *[Official Report, 26 October 2010, Vol. 517, c. 1MC.]*

Incidents of single separation

	Boys	*Girls*
June	15	4
July	29	14
August	22	13
September	22	5
October	23	4
November	28	7
December	32	4
2008		
January	24	4
February	22	1
March	22	2
April	18	7
May	10	3
June	13	3
July	13	6
August	4	9
September	8	7
October	12	6
November	4	2
December	5	11
2009		
January	8	3
February	25	3
March	51	7

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints were made by children held at Medway secure training centre in each year since 1998; and what the outcome of the complaint was in each case. [14233]

Mr Blunt: The YJB does not collect this data centrally. Medway STC has collected data since 2001 on the total number of complaints, and at what level complaints were resolved. This data are shown in the following table:

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Total complaints	195	227	321	651	541	486	694	490	376	170
Stage 1 resolved	175	223	318	649	530	455	624	435	345	162
Stage 2 resolved	10	3	0	1	5	5	12	11	2	0
Stage 3 resolved	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	10	1	3	1	5	26	58	44	29	8

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of self-harm by children of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group were recorded at Medway secure training centre in each month since April 1998; and how many such incidents required external medical assistance. [14234]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires every establishment to report all incidents of self-harm on a monthly basis. Self-harm is defined as

> "any act by which a young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent, or severity of the injury."

The YJB has collected data against this definition since April 2007. The number of self-harm incidents since April 2007 by *(a)* gender and *(b)* age is outlined in the tables 1 and 2 as follows. The third table shows the number of incidents requiring external medical assistance.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Incidents of self harm by gender

	Male	*Female*
April 2007	12	17
May 2007	1	10
June 2007	6	8
July 2007	5	24
August 2007	5	26
September 2007	6	18
October 2007	5	13
November 2007	9	3
December 2007	4	1
January 2008	4	2
February 2008	1	1
March 2008	5	0
April 2008	7	2
May 2008	6	1
June 2008	4	7
July 2008	4	7
August 2008	4	7
September 2008	0	7
October 2008	2	4
November 2008	0	6
December 2008	0	2
January 2009	3	2
February 2009	3	5
March 2009	4	6

Incidents of self harm by age

	11	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*
April 2008	0	0	0	6	2	0	1
May 2008	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
June 2008	0	0	0	5	3	0	0
July 2008	0	0	0	0	7	2	2

Incidents of self harm by age

	11	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*
August 2008	0	0	0	0	7	2	2
September 2008	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
October 2008	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
November 2008	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
December 2008	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
January 2009	0	0	0	1	2	2	0
February 2009	0	0	0	1	4	2	0
March 2009	0	0	0	1	3	5	0

Number of self harm incidents requiring hospital treatment

	Number
April 2007	0
May 2007	1
June 2007	0
July 2007	0
August 2007	1
September 2007	0
October 2007	0
November 2007	1
December 2007	0
January 2008	0
February 2008	0
March 2008	0
April 2008	0
May 2008	0
June 2008	0
July 2008	0
August 2008	0
September 2008	0
October 2008	0
November 2008	0
December 2008	0
January 2009	0
February 2009	0
March 2009	2

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many suicide attempts of children of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group were recorded at Medway secure training centre in each month since April 1998. [14235]

Mr Blunt: The YJB collects data on self-harm incidents centrally, but does not specifically collect data on suicide attempts. Medway STC defines serious incidents of self-harm and suicide attempts as

> "any incident of self harm or suicide attempt that has resulted in the requirement of external medical treatment (out-patient or emergency)".

Using this definition, there have been two incidents, the first involving a 16-year-old female in December 2006 and the second involving a 16-year-old female in August 2007.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children held at Medway secure training centre were referred to hospital for psychiatric treatment in each year since 1998. [14236]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board does not collect this data centrally. Records from Medway STC indicate that one young person was referred to hospital for psychiatric treatment in 2006.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children held at Medway secure training centre were transferred to a psychiatric hospital in each year since 1998; and what the average time taken from referral to transfer was in each year. [14237]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board does not collect this data centrally. Records from Medway STC indicate that two young people have been transferred to a psychiatric hospital. These involved a young male in July 2006 and a young female in July 2009. The time frame for referrals is subject to variables relating to the establishment's psychiatric assessment process and liaison with external agencies.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (1) boys entering Medway secure training centre were assessed as vulnerable on entrance in each month since April 1998; [14238]

(2) girls received into Medway secure training centre were assessed as vulnerable on placement in each month of each year since 1998. [14284]

Mr Blunt: The electronic records that the YJB holds centrally are unable to provide this information. This is due to the fact that the data are sourced from live management information which is frequently updated as new information is provided to the YJB from youth offending teams. Vulnerability is an imprecise term as it can cover a broad range of characteristics and behaviours. As part of the placement process information on the risk a young person may pose to themselves or others in a secure setting is taken into account when determining the placement.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restraint has been used on boys held at Medway secure training centre in each month of each year since 1998. [14278]

Mr Blunt: All secure establishments submit monthly data on the number of Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPIs) to the YJB. An RPI is defined as:

> Any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a young person. Overpower is defined as "restricting movement or mobility".

Restraint is only ever to be used by staff as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

The YJB has only collected data against this definition since April 2007. There were 936 uses of RPI on boys at Medway during the period April 2007 to March 2009.

The latest data available are for 2008-09 and are shown in the table as follows. The data from 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the 2009-10 annual YJB workload statistics.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Number of restraints on boys	*Number of boys involved in restraint*
April 2007	49	22
May 2007	62	20
June 2007	47	22
July 2007	87	25
August 2007	59	21
September 2007	38	17
October 2007	54	24
November 2007	57	24
December 2007	62	25
January 2008	64	24
February 2008	32	18
March 2008	39	21
April 2008	12	5
May 2008	19	11
June 2008	32	15
July 2008	30	12
August 2008	14	9
September 2008	13	9
October 2008	32	15
November 2008	16	11
December 2008	15	12
January 2009	9	5
February 2009	36	15
March 2009	58	17

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children received into Medway secure training centre had previously been assessed as a child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 in each year since April 1998. [14285]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board does not hold this data centrally. Medway STC holds this information on individuals on their files, but this could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Custodial Treatment: Burglary

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of those convicted of offences related to burglary have received custodial sentences in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [14608]

Mr Blunt: The requested information is shown in the table as follows.

The table shows the percentage of persons sentenced for an offence of burglary who received an immediate custodial sentence from 2004 to 2008. The figures have been shown as a percentage of those sentenced rather than convicted as due to lags in time between conviction and sentencing the number convicted and sentenced in a year may not match.

This information is published annually in table 2.12 of Sentencing Statistics, available from the Ministry of Justice website. Figures for 2009 are due to be published on 21 October 2010.

Number of persons sentenced, sentenced to immediate custody and percentage given immediate custody for burglary, 2004-08

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total number sentenced	24,133	22,652	22,675	23,549	23,651
Total sentenced to immediate custody	10,814	9,550	9,229	9,237	9,960
Percentage of persons sentenced given immediate custody	44.8	42.2	40.7	39.2	42.1

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
3. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Custodial Treatment: Rape

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of a custodial sentence imposed in respect of rape offences was in each year since 2005. [14727]

Mr Blunt: The average custodial sentence lengths (ACSL) for rape offences in England and Wales in each year since 2005 are shown in the following table. ACSL 'excludes' life/indeterminate sentences, the number of indeterminate and determinate sentences in each year is also shown.

Data for 2009 is due to be published on 21 October 2010.

Average custodial sentence length (ACSL)[1], (months) for rape offences[2], 2005-08

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
ACSL	81.7	81.1	85.4	90.3
Number of determinate sentences	673	602	607	669
Number of indeterminate sentences[3]	74	202	214	196
Total sentenced to immediate custody	747	804	821	865

[1] ACSL excludes life/indeterminate sentences.
[2] Includes attempted rape.
[3] Life sentences and indeterminate sentences for public protection.

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. This data has been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. This data is presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:
Justice Statistics: Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Driving Offences: Disqualification

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were serving custodial sentences for driving while disqualified at the latest date for which figures are available. [14457]

Mr Blunt: As at July 2010, the most recent available data, there were 49 prisoners serving custodial sentences for driving while disqualified offences.

The figures are a further breakdown of those in Table 2 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin "Population in custody, July 2010 England and Wales" and available at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Legal Aid Scheme: Contracts

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department has had with the Legal Services Commission on the number of legal aid contracts granted in the recent tendering round; and if he will make a statement. [14467]

Mr Djanogly: Ministry of Justice officials have kept in close contact with officials at the Legal Services Commission (LSC) throughout the tender process for new civil legal aid contracts. The tender process for the 2010 Standard Civil Contracts run by the LSC will be complete only once all appeals have been dealt with and necessary pre-contract verification checks have finished, which the LSC anticipate will be by the end of September.

Legal Aid Scheme: Washington Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal practices in Washington and Sunderland West constituency have been awarded contracts to provide family legal aid services commencing October 2010; what estimate he has made of the number of cases those practices will be able to take on under such contracts; and what the monetary value of each such contract is. [14468]

Mr Djanogly: The tender process for new contracts is not yet complete and therefore the Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not currently hold this information in final form. The tender process will conclude once the appeals process is complete and validation checks on successful applicants have taken place, which the LSC anticipate will be by the end of September. It is intended that details of legal aid providers, split by area, will be published on the LSC website at:

www.legalservices.gov.uk

This information will include details of matter start allocations for each provider.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal practices in Washington and Sunderland West constituency are under contract to the Legal Services Commission to provide family legal aid services; how many legal aid cases those practices have taken on during the current contract period; and what the monetary value of each such contract is. [14469]

Mr Djanogly: There are five legal practices within the Washington and Sunderland West constituency currently under contract to provide family legal aid services and 187 new matters were started between the start of the contract period in April 2010 and 1 September 2010. The total claims value for these contracts is £42,379.32.

Prison Accommodation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account his Department took of the extent of existing spare capacity in the juvenile prison estate when taking the decision to commission additional prison places. [14910]

Mr Blunt: We have regular discussions with the Youth Justice Board over the configuration of the custodial estate, in light of their commissioning plans and the supply and demand across the estate as a whole. Decisions on the role and function of the estate, including the need for additional places, would take account of those discussions.

Prisoners' Release: Reoffenders

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of those released from a custodial sentence have reoffended in each of the last five years. [14609]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is presented as follows.

Table 1 shows the number and one-year reoffending rate of adult offenders who were released from custody in the first quarter of each of the last five years that data are available for.

Table 1: Number of offenders and one year reoffending rate for offenders released from custody in the first quarter of each of the last five years

	Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders who reoffend in one year follow up period (%)*
2004 Q1	15,749	51.9
2005 Q1	14,579	49.1
2006 Q1	14,364	46.5
2007 Q1	12,810	47.2
2008 Q1	16,099	49.4

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Prisons: Restraint Techniques

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the Physical Control in Care manual used by the Prison Service. [14331]

Mr Blunt: A copy of the 2010 Physical Control in Care manual and the 2010 Personal Protection manual have been placed in the House Library.

Youth Custody

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children of each age and sex were received into *(a)* secure training centres, *(b)* local authority secure units and *(c)* young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years. [14280]

Mr Blunt: The following tables show the number of custodial episodes started by year from 2001-02 to 2008-09 by age and gender who were received into secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions.

An episode refers to a period a young person has spent in custody and it is possible that one young person can start more than one custodial episode at different points of each year for different offences or for changes in legal basis for detention, such as remand to sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Children received into secure establishments

Establishment type	*Age*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Secure children's homes	10	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
	11	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
	12	74	46	58	52	57	38	32	39
	13	176	167	159	128	179	216	192	140
	14	444	473	490	367	363	495	395	382
	15	220	214	208	164	144	165	185	162
	16	146	118	131	101	135	120	116	113
	17	6	—	2	2	8	7	7	8
	Total	1,067	1,019	1,050	816	887	1,041	927	844
Secure training centres	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	13	10	14	10	3	2	3	2
	13	79	102	88	77	73	24	30	51
	14	256	283	291	353	417	391	403	332
	15	80	161	234	241	258	340	308	328
	16	34	88	166	208	280	346	300	346
	17	1	1	4	5	14	49	38	35
	Total	464	645	797	894	1,045	1,152	1,082	1,094
Young offender institutions	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	16	12	10	4	2	2	4	4
	15	1,632	1,573	1,445	1,459	1,541	1,658	1,496	1,316
	16	3,150	3,136	2,910	2,880	3,187	3,114	3,157	2,891
	17	6,754	6,345	5,994	6,026	6,065	6,331	6,235	5,981
	Total	11,553	11,071	10,359	10,369	10,795	11,105	10,892	10,192

Establishment type	*Gender*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Secure children's homes	Female	202	194	184	147	215	178	220	200
	Male	865	825	866	669	672	863	707	644
	Total	1,067	1,019	1,050	816	887	1,041	927	844
Secure training centres	Female	71	178	275	327	395	530	426	447
	Male	393	467	522	567	650	622	656	647
	Total	464	645	797	894	1,045	1,152	1,082	1,094
Young offender institutions	Female	554	505	404	390	425	390	415	371
	Male	10,999	10,566	9,955	9,979	10,370	10,715	10,477	9,821
	Total	11,553	11,071	10,359	10,369	10,795	11,105	10,892	10,192

Youth Justice Board

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has for the future of the Youth Justice Board; and if he will make a statement. [15361]

Mr Blunt: The Government are looking at all arm's length bodies and considering whether they should be retained. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is included in this process. Under the previous Government a review of the YJB was undertaken and we are looking at the recommendations of that review as part of this process.

The YJB has an important aim to prevent offending by children and young people. As part of the rehabilitation revolution, the Government intend to do everything possible to ensure the best outcomes for young people, their families and communities.

CABINET OFFICE

Census

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the estimated cost will be of the 2011 Census. [13802]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As the Director General for the Office for National Statistics I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the estimated cost will be of the 2011 Census. (13802)

The most recent estimated total cost of the 2011 Census in England and Wales is £482 million. This covers the period 2005-2016.

The cost and financial control of the 2011 Census was outlined in the White Paper 'Helping to shape tomorrow' which was published in December 2008 and is available on the website:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/legislation/index.html

Civil Servants: Sunderland

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of civil servants employed by *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* Executive agencies and *(c)* other Government bodies whose primary place of employment was in Washington and Sunderland West constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [14614]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of civil servants employed by (a) Government departments, (b) executive agencies and (c) other Government bodies, whose primary place of employment was in Washington and Sunderland West constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. (14614)

Civil Service Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website. The latest published statistics are for March 2009:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0110.pdf

The numbers of civil servants employed by Government departments, executive agencies and other Government bodies by constituency are not available. Figures for Washington and Sunderland West constituency cannot be provided.

Government Departments: Computer Software

Mr Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps are being taken to encourage the procurement of open source software in Government Departments; and what estimate has been made of the savings which could be made by transferring to open source software. [14369]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to using more open source solutions where possible.

The Cabinet Office along with the Office of Government Commerce are working on "Guidance for Procurers" specifically covering open source software. A key principle is that Government will actively and fairly consider open source solutions alongside proprietary ones in making procurement decisions.

Procurement decisions will be made on the basis of the best value for money solution to the business requirement, taking account of total cost of ownership of the solution.

Where there is no significant overall cost difference between open and non-open source products, open source will be selected on the basis of its additional inherent flexibility.

No estimates on the likely level of savings that will accrue from transferring to open source software have been made. While more open procurement can undoubtedly save money, it is difficult to ascertain precise cost savings from open source software alone as it is one element in the overall solution.

Life Expectancy: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average *(a)* male and *(b)* female life expectancy was in Gateshead constituency in each year since 2000. [13438]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average (a) male and (b) female life expectancy was in Gateshead constituency in each year since 2000. (13438)

Period life expectancies at birth for (a) males and (b) females for all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2006-08, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Life expectancy figures at parliamentary constituency level are not readily available.

Lone Parents

Mrs Grant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of single parent families resident in *(a)* Maidstone and the Weald constituency, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England and Wales. [14726]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of single parent families resident in (a) Maidstone and The Weald constituency, (b) Greater London and (c) England and Wales. (14726)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figures are for 2008 and are shown in the table below. The estimate for Maidstone and The Weald is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. In 2008 the constituency had 18 wards, three fewer than now. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency. The boundaries of Greater London and England and Wales have not changed since 2008.

	Thousand
Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families- with at least one child under 16*
Maidstone and The Weald constituency (2008)	3
Greater London	265
England and Wales	1,481

Source:
APS January to December 2008

Lone Parents: Washington Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Washington and Sunderland West constituency. [14251]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request asking how many lone parents there are in Washington and Sunderland West constituency. (14251)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figures are for 2008 and are shown in the table below. These are based on 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries. Washington and Sunderland West constituency did not exist in 2008. It was formed from five (out of 13) wards from the former Gateshead East and Washington West constituency, two (out of nine) wards from the former Sunderland North constituency and one (out of 11) wards from the former Sunderland South constituency. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituencies.

	Thousand
Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families-with at least one child under 16*
Gateshead East and Washington West constituency (2008)	2
Sunderland North constituency (2008)	3
Sunderland South constituency (2008)	3

Source:
APS January to December 2008

Population

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Office for National Statistics used the building targets in regional spatial strategies when drawing up revised population projections. [15066]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether the Office for National Statistics uses the building targets in Regional Spatial Strategies, when drawing up revised population projections. [15066]

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not use building targets in the production of population projections. The subnational projections are trend-based, making assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration based on recent levels observed over a five-year reference period with the total population of England controlled to the national population projection's. Therefore, they give an indication of what the future population, by age and sex structure, might be if recent trends continue, and take no account of regional policy or development aims.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals for a register of companies contracted by public sector bodies to provide goods and services which records their performance in meeting the requirements of such contracts. [14450]

Mr Maude: Departments can and do take into account a supplier's track record when undertaking public procurements. To date, Government have not ranked supplier performances centrally, but this Government are committed to put mechanisms in place to achieve this. The Government are committed to publishing all new central Government contracts from January 2011 which will give supplier names and information contract costs.

Select Committees: Public Appointments

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on strengthening the powers of Select Committees to scrutinise major public appointments. [13715]

Mr Maude: Increasing parliamentary scrutiny of major public appointments is a key Government commitment and an essential part of our wider programme of public bodies' reform. I will be writing to the chair of the Liaison Committee shortly to set out our proposals.

Teenage Pregnancy: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many pregnancies there were among women aged 15 to 17 years living in Peterborough constituency in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [15383]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for. the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many pregnancies there were among women aged 15 to 17 years living in Peterborough constituency in 2009. (15383)

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions: They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. This information is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15055

Because of the confidentiality of data on abortions and stillbirths figures on conceptions are not published for small areas. Figures cannot be provided by parliamentary constituency because of the risk of disclosing such information.

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children were living in workless households in Peterborough constituency in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [14623]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children were living in workless households in Peterborough constituency in (a) 2001, (b) 2005 and (c) 2009. (14623)

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. These are currently only available for 2004 to 2008, therefore 2001 and 2009 are not available. Due to the small sample size of the APS at constituency level it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for Peterborough constituency. However, the attached table shows estimates for Peterborough local authority which has a larger sample size. The table provides information for 2005 and 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table: Children[1] living in workless households[2] in Peterborough local authority

Thousand

	Estimate	*Lower bound*[3]	*Upper bound*[3]
January to December 2005	6.6	4.5	8.7
January to December 2008	5.5	36	7.4

[1] Children refers to children under 16.

[2] Households including at least one person aged 16 to 64.

[3] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:

APS household datasat.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people aged between 11 and 20 who died from alcohol-related conditions in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement; [15298]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in each age group who died from alcohol poisoning in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement; [15299]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in each age group who died by drowning where alcohol consumption was a causal factor in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement; [15300]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in each age group who died in cases where alcohol was a causal factor in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement; [15302]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in each age group who died from asphyxiation where alcohol was a causal factor in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [15303]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

(a) what estimate has been made of the number of people aged between 11 and 20 who died from alcohol-related harm in each year since 1999 for which figures are available. (15298)

(b) what estimate has been made of the number of people in each age group who died from alcohol poisoning in each year since 1999 for which figures are available. (15299)

(c) what estimate has been made of the number of people in each age group who died by drowning where alcohol consumption was a causal factor in each year since 1999 for which figures are available. (15300)

(d) what estimate has been made of the number of people in each age group who died in cases where alcohol was a causal factor in each year since 1999 for which figures are available. (15302)

(e) what estimate has been made of the number of people in each age group who died from asphyxiation where alcohol was a causal factor in each year since 1999 for which figures are available. (15303)

The tables show for England and Wales, 1999 to 2009 (the latest year available), (a) the number of deaths where the underlying cause of death was alcohol-related, for persons aged 11 to 20 years (Table .1), (b) the number of deaths where alcohol poisoning was the underlying cause of death, by age group (Table 2) and (d) the number of deaths where the underlying cause was alcohol-related, by age group (Table 3). The tables will also be placed in the House of Commons Library.

The National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths only includes those causes regarded as being most directly due to alcohol consumption. It includes all deaths from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (excluding biliary cirrhosis), even when alcohol is not specifically mentioned on the death certificate. Apart from deaths due to alcohol poisoning, the definition does not include deaths from external causes, for example, accidents where drinking might have been a contributory factor.

It is not possible to provide figures for deaths involving drowning (c) or asphyxiation (e) where alcohol consumption was a causal factor since internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to the death to be recorded on the death certificate. Doctors and coroners are not required to record whether or not the deceased had consumed alcohol.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish his Department's local alcohol profiles for England; and if he will make a statement. [14462]

Anne Milton: Local alcohol profiles for England are published on the North West Public Health Observatory website:

www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/

and are available by local authority and by primary care trust.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what analysis has been undertaken by his Department of the age profile of people who are alcoholics. [15400]

Anne Milton: The adult psychiatric morbidity survey, 'Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007', covering adults living in private households in England was produced, under contract with the NHS Information Centre for health and social care, and published in January 2009 includes information on the prevalence of alcohol use and dependency by age, sex, ethnicity and other factors. A copy of this publication has been placed in the Library.

The survey of psychiatric morbidity among adults in private households in Great Britain was first carried out in 1993 with a second survey conducted in 2000. In 2007, The NHS Information Centre commissioned the National Centre for Social Research to carry out a third adult psychiatric morbidity survey covering adults living in private households in England. The survey assessed alcohol dependence from answers to a different self-completion questionnaire which consisted of 20 questions focusing on the three components of dependence: loss of control, symptomatic behaviour and binge drinking.

New Parents: Health Education

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will take steps to improve the provision of information to new parents on illnesses including heart disease where early detection improves survival rates. [13513]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to do so because information is already available online on the Pregnancy Care Planner.

This is an interactive tool on the NHS Choices website, based on the NHS Pregnancy Book. It provides complete guidance to pregnancy, childbirth and first few weeks with a new baby. In particular, there is a section that helps new parents to understand how a healthy heart works, how congenital heart disease can affect their child's heart and general health and explains the causes of congenital heart diseases.

In addition, The Birth to Five interactive tool on NHS Choices, based on the NHS Birth to Five book, provides advice for mothers and fathers on becoming a parent, taking care of themselves and their child and where to find practical help and support.

Blood: Contamination

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the implementation of the recommendations of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and the National Blood Service on independent efficacy trials for blood filtering and prion filtration; and if he will make a statement. [13758]

Anne Milton: Since 2007, the UK blood services on the basis of the recommendations of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, have awarded external contracts for independent trials of the efficacy of prion filters. Results have been made available to the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), the Department of Health and the manufacturer as they have become available, and these trials continue. The UK Blood Services is also conducting clinical safety trials of prion filters in patients. SaBTO will review data from these studies as they become available and make recommendations based on these. The Department will consider any further measures recommended by SaBTO.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what types of cancer treatment will be eligible for funding from the Cancer Drugs Fund in April 2011; [15199]

(2) whether non-pharmacological anti-cancer treatments will be included for funding from *(a)* the interim Cancer Drugs Fund and *(b)* the Cancer Drugs Fund; [15200]

(3) what mechanism will be used to obtain funding from the Cancer Drugs Fund in April 2011; [15197]

(4) what plans he has for the process of implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund by April 2011. [15198]

Mr Simon Burns: Decisions on the design of the Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011 will be taken following public consultation. We intend to consult on our plans shortly.

Regional panels, led by clinical experts, will decide on the use of the additional funding made available to the NHS in 2010-11 to support improved access to cancer drugs. Guidance issued to strategic health authorities by the National Health Service Medical Director recommends that the primary focus of the funding should be on improving access to cancer drugs, which can include radiopharmaceuticals.

A copy of this guidance has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_117996

Cerebral Palsy: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children resident in Gateshead have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy in each year since 2000. [14372]

Mr Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Dental Services: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of residents of Gateshead constituency (i) registered with a GP and (ii) with access to an NHS dentist. [14373]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available is shown in the following tables.

Number of general practitioner (GP) registrations in the Gateshead primary care trust (PCT) area, as at 30 September 2009

	Number of GP registrations
Gateshead PCT	205,068

Notes:
1. The GP census collection contains data by trust level only. Gateshead constituency is serviced by Gateshead PCT.
2. Data are for the number of GP patient registrations shown on the annual GP census collection as at 30 September 2009. It should be noted that this may be higher than resident population in the given area due to multiple registrations/GP systems not being fully up-to-date and patients allowed to register with GPs outside their local PCT. Owing to this, proportions of numbers registered (and not registered) cannot be accurately calculated by dividing the numbers presented here by resident population statistics.
3. The numbers shown here represent GP patient registrations to national health service GPs only.
4. The Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed.

Source:
General and Personal Medical Services Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Number of patients seen in the previous 24 months by an NHS dentist in the Gateshead PCT area, and as a percentage of the population, as at 30 June 2010 (including orthodontic patients)

	Number of patients seen in the previous 24 months	*Patients seen in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population*
Gateshead PCT	117,488	61.6

Notes:
1. Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period.
2. The NHS dental statistics contain data by trust level only. Gateshead constituency is serviced by Gateshead PCT.
3. Patients seen are allocated to a PCT via the dentist which they attend for treatment and not by the home postcode of the patient. Most patients will live within the PCT in which they receive primary care dental services, but some will attend a dentist further afield (near their place of employment, for example).

Source:
NHS Dental Statistics for England 2009-10, The Information Centre for health and social care

Epilepsy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many epilepsy specialist nurse *(a)* posts and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff there were in the NHS in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11. [14479]

Mr Burstow: The number of epilepsy specialist nurse posts and full-time equivalent staff are not held centrally, as they are not separately identifiable in the Non Medical Workforce Census available from the NHS Information Centre.

Food: Cloning

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* evaluation and *(b)* authorisation is required for the marketing of (i) foodstuffs and (ii) milk produced from cloned animals. [13590]

Anne Milton: Any food obtained from cloned animals is regulated as a "novel food" under regulation (EC) No. 258/97[1]. According to this regulation, novel foods may not be marketed in the European Union without an authorisation. Applications for authorisation of novel foods are evaluated by national authorities against criteria of safety, nutritional quality and not misleading the consumer. The Food Standards Agency is the competent authority for novel foods in the United Kingdom and expert advice on applications is provided by the independent advisory committee on novel foods and processes. This advice would form the basis of the agency's risk assessment which would be subject to review by all 26 other EU member states before an authorisation is issued. To date, the agency has not received any applications for the authorisation of food produced from cloned animals.

[1] Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients.

General Practitioners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's proposals for GP commissioning, whether the Government plan to encourage competition for health-care provision between existing NHS providers and private providers. [14386]

Mr Simon Burns: 'The Coalition: our programme for government' sets out a commitment to give every patient the power to choose any health care provider that meets national health service standards, within NHS prices. This includes independent, voluntary and community sector providers.

In addition the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out the proposals to create an economic regulator for the health and social care sectors. A key responsibility of the regulator will be to ensure that competition works effectively in the interests of patients and taxpayer.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's proposals for GP commissioning, what will happen if a GP practice fails to achieve the quality and financial standards needed to make it viable; and how such a failing GP practice will be managed. [14387]

Mr Simon Burns: Where a general practitioner (GP) practice is unable to meet its contractual commitments, the NHS Commissioning Board would be responsible for making decisions about the actions it might take, under existing GP contractual arrangements, to rectify the position. This can range from putting in additional temporary support arrangements to termination of a contract because of serious and substantive breach of the contract.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 7 September 2010, which organisations he expects to take a lead on recent reconfigurations of *(a)* maternity, *(b)* cancer and *(c)* other health services not subject to a national framework in conurbations which will be covered by more than one GP consortium; and if he will make a statement. [14654]

Anne Milton *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", set out the Government's intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. Decisions taken now about the reconfiguration of services should therefore be consistent with commissioning intentions for the future.

We expect that, in most cases, local GP commissioners will lead the reconfiguration process, working in partnership with providers, local authorities, patients and the public. Consortia will have the freedom to decide which aspects of commissioning activity they undertake fully themselves and which aspects require collaboration across several consortia, for example where proposed reconfigurations cross consortia boundaries. As existing consortia structures vary across the country, and until GP commissioning arrangements are fully established, primary care trusts will have an important role in supporting practices to prepare for these new arrangements.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has sent a copy of the consultation document "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients" to every GP practice in England. [15255]

Mr Simon Burns: "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients" was published on the Department's website on 22 July. The Department has issued notification of and provided links to the White Paper and related consultation documents, including "Commissioning for Patients", through targeted publications, including the July edition of the "GP and Practice Bulletin".

This information was also provided to local NHS communications teams to share with their local general practitioner community and to professional bodies including the Royal College of GPs, the British Medical Association, NHS Alliance and National Association of Primary Care among others.

Health Professions: Insurance

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to respond to the recommendations of the Finlay Scott review on the requirement to have insurance or indemnity as a condition of registration as a healthcare professional. [13711]

Anne Milton: Finlay Scott has delivered his report "Independent review of requirement to have insurance or indemnity as a condition of registration as a healthcare professional" to the Secretary of State and other United Kingdom health Ministers. This was published on the Department's website on 14 July 2010 at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117454.

The Government welcome the report, which contains a comprehensive appraisal of the issues and clear recommendations. The report requires careful consideration and we intend to publish a substantive response in due course, after Ministers in all four UK countries have had the opportunity to consider its content.

Hepatitis

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [14412]

Anne Milton: Data on diagnosis of autoimmune hepatitis are not collected centrally. Information on autoimmune hepatitis is available on the NHS Choices website:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/Hepatitis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

or from the Autoimmune Hepatitis Support Group

www.autoimmunehepatitis.co.uk/AIHquestions.htm#6

or the British Liver Trust

www.britishlivertrust.org.uk/home/the-liver/liver-diseases/autoimmune-hepatitis.aspx

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on autoimmune hepatitis in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [14413]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has neither commissioned nor evaluated research, in the last five years, specifically on autoimmune hepatitis.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre in Newcastle has a research theme on "Liver Disease in Aging". The NIHR Biomedical Research Unit in Birmingham conducts research on gastrointestinal disease and hepatology.

Herbal Medicine: Regulation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide for the statutory regulation of practitioners of herbal medicines; and if he will make a statement. [14435]

Anne Milton: The Department consulted in 2009 on whether, and if so how, to regulate practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine. The results of the consultation are being considered in light of the Government's overall strategy on the regulation of health care professions, and we expect a report to be published shortly.

HIV Infection: Health Services

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future commission of outpatient services for people with AIDS and HIV. [13835]

Anne Milton: Together with the White Paper "Liberating the NHS" this will provide the framework for the future commissioning of services for people living with HIV and AIDS.

A public health White Paper will be published by the end of 2010, which will set out plans for a new public health service.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with HIV and AIDS have been treated in NHS facilities in each of the last three years. [14002]

Anne Milton: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Number of HIV-infected individuals seen for HIV care and number of individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) in national health service facilities in the United Kingdom, 2007-09

	Total number of HIV-infected individuals seen for HIV care	*Number of HIV-infected individuals receiving ART*
2007	56,377	39,677
2008	61,110	45,893
2009	65,319	50,292

Maternity Services: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on NHS maternity services in each region in the 2008-09 financial year; [13951]

(2) how much his Department spent on *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* NHS maternity services in the 2008-09 financial year. [13952]

Anne Milton: Figures for the commissioning of secondary health-care relating to maternity services by primary care trusts, aggregated to each strategic health authority area in 2008-09, are shown in the following table.

Strategic health authority	*2008-09 Maternity spend (primary care trusts) £000*
East Midlands	151,387
East of England	171,369
London	335,671
North East	91,001
North West	316,310
South Central	139,626
South East Coast	133,822
South West	182,529
West Midlands	215,736
Yorkshire and The Humber	231,112
Total (England)	1,968,563

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of primary care trusts, 2008-09

The figures are for secondary health-care only as information relating to primary health-care expenditure on maternity services is not held centrally.

Total national health service expenditure in 2008-09 (outturn) was £94.017 billion while total NHS revenue expenditure in 2008-09 (outturn) was £90.744 billion.

Medical Treatments: EU Countries

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the cost of issuing European Health Insurance Cards in respect of *(a)* postage, *(b)* staff (i) salaries and (ii) on-costs and *(c)* card production; [14439]

(2) what the EU regulatory basis is for the requirement that the UK issue European Health Insurance cards to the public free of charge. [14440]

Anne Milton: The criteria governing the provision of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) are contained in European social security regulations (EC) 883/2004 and 987/2009. The regulations do not state explicitly that a member state must provide the EHIC free of charge. For the financial year 2009-10, the cost of producing each card, as shown in the table, was £1.55. If a member state charged for the card a cost much greater than that to produce the card, it could be considered a barrier to free movement of people within the European Union.

The costs of postage, the production of cards, staff salaries, on-costs and overheads for 2009-10 for the EHIC are shown in the following table.

NHS Business Services Authority EHIC costs for financial year 2009-10

Cost type	*Cost (£)*
Postage[1]	600,556
Staff salaries[2]	880,266
Staff on cost[3]	193,658
Overheads[4]	1,202,557
On cost[5]	234,934
Production of cards[6]	351,863
Total	3,463,834
Average cost per card issued	1.55

[1] Postage—Estimate of cost incurred for use of a postal service. This figure does not include the cost of stationery.

[2] Staff salaries—Estimated cost of staff salaries directly involved in the process.

[3] Staff on costs—Estimated cost of pension and national insurance contributions for staff who are directly involved in the process. This has been calculated as 22% of staff salaries.

[4] Overheads—This includes all the related administrative expenditure including the NHS BSA Prescription Pricing Division management, information technology maintenance and estates. Capital expenditure including Information Technology development costs and depreciation are not included in the on cost/overhead figure.

[5] On cost—includes internal printing costs, cost of stationery, travel expenses etc.

[6] Production of 2,237,553 cards includes:
(i) Materials: cards paper and envelopes
(ii) Card manufacture
(iii) Card personalisation
(iv) Printing and personalisation of carrier letter
(v) Matching and attaching the card to the carrier letter
(vi) Sorting of mail
(vii) Provision of management information

Costs relating to producing, distributing and promoting EHIC application forms as well as processing medical expenses claims are not included.

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) costing model, invoice spreadsheet and contract management information.

Mental Health Services

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to increase the proportion of his Department's annual expenditure which is allocated to mental health services. [14497]

Mr Burstow: It is the responsibility of the local national health service to commission health care services for their local populations, including mental health care services, using the funds allocated to them in their baseline allocations

However, at a national level, the Government have invested significant resources as part of the improving access to psychological therapies programme. This investment was £173 million in 2010-11. The £173 million per annum funding will be recurrent following the end of the current comprehensive spending review period.

The NHS budget is protected and we know cuts in mental health services would be a false economy leading to greater costs in the future.

Mental Health Services: Regulation

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from psychotherapists and counsellors on regulation by the Health Professions Council. [14171]

Anne Milton: Since May, the Department has received at least 197 pieces of correspondence regarding the regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors by the Health Professions Council. It is unclear how many of these pieces of correspondence may have been written by people who are psychotherapists or counsellors.

Mental Illness

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east, *(c)* Tyneside and *(d)* Newcastle Central constituency who have a mental illness. [14492]

Mr Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested. However, numbers of people accessing mental health services by geographical area have been published by the Office for National Statistics and are available at:

www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/instanceSelection.do;jsessionid=ac1f930b30d8271167909ccf454b9795a15021083727?JSAllowed=true&Function=&%24ph=60_61&CurrentPageId=61&step=2&datasetFamilyId=2207&instanceSelection=025929&Next.x=15&Next.y=6&nsjs=true&nsck=true&nssvg=false&nswid=1055

Methadone: Prescriptions

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS drugs budget was of prescribing methadone in the latest period for which figures are available. [15398]

Mr Simon Burns: In the latest 12-month period for which figures are available, July 2009 to June 2010, the net ingredient cost of methadone prescriptions prescribed and dispensed, in the community, in England, was £39 million.

Methadone is used for analgesia, for cough suppression in palliative care and for treatment of substance dependence. Methadone, particularly for the treatment of substance dependence, may also be provided to patients by other routes not included in the figure provided.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what analysis has been undertaken by his Department of the age profile of those being prescribed methadone. [15399]

Anne Milton: Methadone is prescribed for a variety of clinical conditions, including the treatment of opioid (heroin) dependency, chronic pain and cough in terminal illness.

There has been no specific analysis done on the age profile of those prescribed methadone, however the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England which can be broken down by age. The data do not distinguish between methadone and the other drugs such as buprenorphine which are also recommended for that purpose by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

The following table shows the NDTMS data on the numbers receiving substitute prescribing for substance misuse broken down by age for 2008-09.

Age	*Number*	*Percentage*
18 to 24	14,143	9
25 to 29	32,070	21
30 to 34	34,820	23
35 to 39	30,615	20
40+	38,338	26
Total	149,986	100

Source:
NDTMS operated by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

Midwives: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* stand-alone midwife-led units and *(b)* midwife-led units situated alongside consultant-led units there are in each region. [13950]

Anne Milton: There are currently 256 maternity units in England. 176 are consultant-led and 80 are midwife-led. There are 20 co-located midwife-led and consultant led units. The co-located units are in the strategic health authority areas:

	Number
West Midlands	4
South West	3
East of England	3
London	3
Yorkshire and Humberside	1
North West	2
East Midlands	1
South Central	1
South East Coast	1

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places for student midwives there were in each region in the *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 academic year. [13953]

Anne Milton: This information is not available by academic year. The number of midwifery commissions placed by each strategic health authority in the last two financial years is shown in the following table.

Number of Midwifery training commissions in 2008-09 and 2009-10

	National health service										
	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East Coast*	*South Central*	*South West*	*England Total*
2008-09:											
Degree	66	218	176	142	226	228	454	144	142	148	1,944
18 Month diploma	20	39	35	15	69	43	0	59	31	12	328
Total	86	257	211	157	295	276	454	203	173	160	2,272
2009-10:											
Degree	67	228	242	146	277	235	335	125	178	144	1,977
18 Month diploma	25	35	27	33	53	54	176	53	25	24	505
Total	92	263	269	179	330	289	511	178	203	168	2,482

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student midwives were in receipt of a bursary in the *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 academic year; what the average bursary paid to a student midwife was in each such year; and what the cost to his Department was of bursaries paid to student midwives in each such year. [13954]

Anne Milton: The number of midwifery students who held a bursary, the average bursary paid to those students and the total cost of all bursaries paid to student midwives in academic year 2008-09 can be found in the following table.

Information for academic year 2009-10 is not yet available.

	2008-09
Number of bursary holders[1]	4,284
Average amount paid per bursary holder[2] (£)	5,751
Total amount paid[2] (£)	24,639,004

[1] Includes EU students who are not eligible for a bursary and those who receive a nil award after income assessment.

[2] Includes the basic award, all supplementary allowances and one off payments.

Note:

All figures are round to the nearest pound.

Source:

NHS Business Services Authority

Motor Neurone Disease

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce a national strategy on motor neurone disease; and if he will make a statement. [14427]

Mr Burstow: Motor neurone disease is a long-term neurological condition; the national service framework for long-term neurological conditions (NSF) was developed to address long-standing issues in neurological care, e.g. inequity in access to services; work force shortages and variable quality of care across the country. The NSF's quality requirements include a separate section on addressing the needs of people with rapidly progressing conditions, such as motor neurone disease, where services need to respond quickly.

We have no plans to introduce a national strategy for motor neurone disease.

Multiple Sclerosis: Employment Services

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist those who are diagnosed with multiple sclerosis between the ages of 20 and 40 years to remain in employment. [13544]

Mr Burstow: It is the responsibility of local health and social care bodies to ensure that they commission services to meet the needs of those living with multiple sclerosis (MS) and ensure that they are enabled to continue working as long as possible.

In the future, outcomes, which the national health service and social care will be expected to achieve, will be set via the NHS Outcomes Framework and its social care equivalents. We will not tell the NHS how to achieve these outcomes but will hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivery through the framework. Similarly, we will not direct local government how to achieve social care outcomes.

The NHS Framework, which is currently out for consultation, contains domains specifically relevant to long-term neurological conditions such as MS:

patient reported outcome measures for specific long-term conditions; and

proposed indicators for emergency hospital admissions for both acute and chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions.

Officials are working with the Neurological Alliance to ensure that these outcomes are relevant to those living with long-term neurological conditions. We will set out, for consultation, an outcomes framework for social care later this year.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published a guideline on the management of multiple sclerosis in primary and secondary care in the NHS. It offers best practice advice on the diagnosis and care of patients with MS, focusing on the quality and configuration of services for patients and their carers, emphasising the need for flexible services to address the whole range of patient needs across primary, secondary, tertiary and social care. The guideline offers advice on rehabilitation services specifically designed to allow those living with multiple sclerosis to remain active and in work as long as possible.

The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence liberating the NHS' proposes that NICE will take the responsibility for devising quality standards that cover both health and social care. This will support commissioning collaboration to ensure a more personalised and integrated approach to health and care.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of the provisions of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 by NHS staff; and whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals to change NHS policies on whistleblowing. [14446]

Anne Milton: Our assessment is that the legislative framework provided by the Public Interest Disclosure Act is robust, but that staff are not always confident to raise concerns with their employers.

In making an announcement on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 333, to the House about the inquiry into events at Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State set out a range of proposals to give teeth to the current safeguards for whistleblowers in the Public Interest Disclosure Act.

New guidance has been issued to the national health service about supporting staff and taking action on concerns raised by staff. Agreement has recently been reached within the NHS Staff Council to provide NHS staff with a contractual right to raise concerns. Amendments to the NHS Constitution will also be published for public consultation in the near future.

NHS: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity support workers there were in each NHS trust at the latest date for which figures are available. [13958]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of maternity support workers in each NHS trust as at 31 May 2010 which is the latest date available.

NHS hospital and community health services: maternity support staff by strategic health authority area and organisation level as at 31 May 2010

		headcount *Number*
	England	8,176
	North East Strategic Health Authority area	392
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	27
RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	51
RR7	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	24
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	20
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	1
RTF	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	111
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	71
RE9	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	19
RTD	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	68
	North West Strategic Health Authority area	1,118
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	32
RW3	Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	92
RJR	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	69
RJN	East Cheshire NHS Trust	19
RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	58
5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	4
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39
REP	Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	136
RBT	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	41
RNL	North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	13
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	105
RMC	Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	57
RM3	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	65
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	26
RBN	St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	24
RWJ	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	50
RMP	Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	29
RM4	Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	10
RM2	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	54
RTX	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	50
RWW	Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	38
RBL	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	65
RRF	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	42
	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	838
RCF	Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	20
RFF	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	27
RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	62
RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	70
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	36
RCD	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	15
RWA	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	79
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	121
RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	89
RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	63
RCC	Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	22
RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	148
RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	48
RCB	York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	38
	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	703
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	44
RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	72
RNQ	Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	70
RNS	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	103
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	20
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	86
RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	40
RWD	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	81

NHS hospital and community health services: maternity support staff by strategic health authority area and organisation level as at 31 May 2010

		headcount *Number*
RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	187
	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	954
RXT	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	2
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	1
RLU	Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust	106
RJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	50
RLT	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	24
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	2
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	118
RLQ	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	24
RJD	Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	30
RXK	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	93
5PF	Sandwell PCT	2
RXW	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	68
RJC	South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	29
RNA	The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	68
RL4	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	59
RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	86
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	68
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	36
RWP	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	88
	East of England Strategic Health Authority area	863
RDD	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	99
RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	41
RGT	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	80
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	5
RDE	Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	21
RWH	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	57
RQQ	Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	25
RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	57
RGP	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	28
RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	83
5GC	Luton PCT	10
RQM	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	49
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	58
RGN	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	41
RAJ	Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	36
RQW	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	54
RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	38
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	52
RGR	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	29
	London Strategic Health Authority area	1,148
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	75
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	67
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	38
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	58
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	12
RVR	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	73
RJ1	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	38
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	46
RYJ	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	81
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	53
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	63
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	30
RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	57
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	28
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	30
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	22
RYQ	South London Healthcare NHS Trust	77
RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	46
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	41
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	24
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	52
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	70
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	25
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	42
	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	684
RTK	Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	63
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	70
RN7	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	32
RVV	East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust	108
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	48
RDU	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	66
RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	60
RPA	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	53
RA2	Royal Surrey County NHS Foundation Trust	55
RTP	Surrey and Sussex Healtacare NHS Trust	54
5P9	West Kent PCT	1
RYR	Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	74
	South Central Strategic Health Authority area	678
RN5	Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	7
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	95
5QC	Hampshire PCT	1
RD7	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	41
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	30
RD8	Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	46
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	130
RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	87
RHW	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	90
RHM	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	121
RN1	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	30
	South West Strategic Health Authority area	798
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	2
5QQ	Devon PCT	12
RBD	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	29
RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	17
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	9
RN3	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39
RVJ	North Bristol NHS Trust	56
RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	19

NHS hospital and community health services: maternity support staff by strategic health authority area and organisation level as at 31 May 2010

		headcount *Number*
RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	56
RD3	Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	64
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	47
RH8	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	29
RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	7
RNZ	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	2
RA9	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	30
RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	101
RDZ	The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10
RA7	University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	170
RA3	Weston Area Health NHS Trust	11
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	60
RA4	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	28

Monthly data:

As from 21 July 2010 The Information Centre has published experimental, provisional monthly NHS work force data. As expected with provisional, experimental statistics, some figures may be revised from month to month as issues are uncovered and resolved. The monthly work force data is not directly comparable with the annual work force census: it only includes those staff on the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) (i.e. it does not include Bank staff). There are also new methods of presenting data (headcount methodology is different and there is now a role count). This information is available from September 2009 onwards at the following website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/provisionalmonthlyhchsworkforce

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Note:

Maternity Support staff are: Nursery nurses, Nursing Assistant/auxiliary's, Health Care Assistants and Support Workers in the Maternity Services area of work.

Source:

Provisional Monthly NHS Hospital and Community Health Service Workforce Statistics

NHS: Negligence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid out in respect of *(a)* settled claims and *(b)* settled claims arising from maternity care under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts. [13939]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) supplied the information requested in the following table. Before April 2002, the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) operated 'excess' levels where trusts, rather than the NHSLA, handled and settled claims below the excess level. These data do not include those claims.

Damages paid on all closed[1] CNST claims and CNST claims settled as a periodical payment[2] as at 31 August 2010

Type of settlement	*Damages paid*	*Outstanding damages*	£ *Total damages*
All claims:			
Non-periodical payments	1,727,050,445	0	1,727,050,445
Periodical payments	580,814,825	698,151,389	1,278,966,214
Total	2,307,865,270	698,151,389	3,006,016,659
Obstetric claims:			
Non-periodical payments	498,303,176	0	498,303,176
Periodical payments	398,946,088	482,031,956	880,978,044
Total	897,249,264	482,031,956	1,379,281,220

[1] Closed claims are claims where final payment has been made.

[2] Periodical payments are claims where ongoing payments are made to the claimant

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 100 largest settled claims awarded under the Clinical Negligence Scheme to date are; how much was paid in each case; and which of these claims arose from maternity care. [13940]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority provided the information requested in the following table.

100 largest clinical negligence scheme for trust claims closed[1] or settled as periodical payment[2] as at 31 August 2010

Number	*Status*	*Damages paid (£)*	*Outstanding damages (£)*	*Total damages (£)*	*Obstetric claim*
1	Periodical Payments	9,607,021	2,792,979	12,400,000	Yes
2	Periodical Payments	5,000,000	4,960,000	9,960,000	Yes
3	Periodical Payments	4,153,811	4,846,189	9,000,000	No
4	Periodical Payments	2,460,141	6,339,859	8,800,000	No
5	Periodical Payments	3,814,454	4,743,546	8,558,000	Yes
6	Periodical Payments	3,304,750	4,895,250	8,200,000	Yes
7	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	3,775,498	4,224,502	8,000,000	Yes
8	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,955,753	5,044,247	8,000,000	Yes
9	Periodical Payments and Indemnity Given	3,656,775	4,283,225	7,940,000	Yes
10	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	3,369,863	4,380,137	7,750,000	Yes
11	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	3,145,000	4,555,000	7,700,000	Yes
12	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	3,314,633	4,267,367	7,582,000	Yes
13	Periodical Payments	2,940,591	4,597,847	7,538,438	No
14	Periodical Payments and Indemnity Given	3,214,877	4,285,123	7,500,000	Yes
15	Periodical Payments	2,402,117	4,897,883	7,300,000	No
16	Periodical Payments	2,375,000	4,875,000	7,250,000	Yes
17	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	3,350,000	3,900,000	7,250,000	Yes

100 largest clinical negligence scheme for trust claims closed[1] or settled as periodical payment[2] as at 31 August 2010

Number	Status	Damages paid (£)	Outstanding damages (£)	Total damages (£)	Obstetric claim
18	Periodical Payments	2,631,000	4,527,000	7,158,000	Yes
19	Periodical Payments	3,117,659	3,929,341	7,047,000	Yes
20	Periodical Payments	1,450,000	5,550,000	7,000,000	Yes
21	Periodical Payments	2,400,000	4,600,000	7,000,000	Yes
22	Periodical Payments	2,613,250	4,151,750	6,765,000	Yes
23	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,575,736	4,174,264	6,750,000	Yes
24	Periodical Payments	3,361,086	3,280,914	6,642,000	Yes
25	Settled—Damages Paid	6,632,844	0	6,632,844	Yes
26	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	3,240,799	3,389,201	6,630,000	Yes
27	Periodical Payments	2,819,350	3,780,650	6,600,000	Yes
28	Periodical Payments	2,800,000	3,700,000	6,500,000	Yes
29	Periodical Payments	2,480,000	4,020,000	6,500,000	Yes
30	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,573,093	3,893,200	6,466,293	No
31	Periodical Payments	3,008,838	3,391,162	6,400,000	Yes
32	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	3,015,213	3,233,632	6,248,845	No
33	Periodical Payments	2,472,000	3,728,000	6,200,000	Yes
34	Periodical Payments	2,405,479	3,794,521	6,200,000	Yes
35	Periodical Payments	2,673,338	3,459,662	6,133,000	Yes
36	Periodical Payments	2,000,000	4,013,555	6,013,555	Yes
37	Periodical Payments	2,631,575	3,368,425	6,000,000	No
38	Periodical Payments	2,549,613	3,450,387	6,000,000	Yes
39	Periodical Payments	2,737,417	3,262,583	6,000,000	Yes
40	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	1,855,088	4,144,912	6,000,000	Yes
41	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,600,772	3,399,228	6,000,000	No
42	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,140,055	3,763,529	5,903,584	Yes
43	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	1,503,055	4,352,695	5,855,750	Yes
44	Periodical Payments	2,364,770	3,435,230	5,800,000	Yes
45	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	1,583,524	4,216,476	5,800,000	No
46	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,085,712	3,714,288	5,800,000	No
47	Settled—Damages Paid	5,799,919	0	5,799,919	Yes
48	Settled—Damages Paid	5,793,781	0	5,793,781	Yes
49	Periodical Payments	2,857,980	2,928,020	5,786,000	Yes
50	Periodical Payments	2,040,000	3,710,000	5,750,000	Yes
51	Periodical Payments and Indemnity Given	2,761,906	2,988,094	5,750,000	Yes
52	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,221,420	3,528,580	5,750,000	No
53	Settled—Damages Paid	5,750,000	0	5,750,000	Yes
54	Settled—Damages Paid	5,749,111	0	5,749,111	No
55	Periodical Payments	2,195,118	3,504,882	5,700,000	Yes
56	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,051,362	3,648,638	5,700,000	Yes
57	Settled—Damages Paid	5,620,290	0	5,620,290	Yes
58	Periodical Payments	2,216,550	3,383,450	5,600,000	Yes
59	Periodical Payments	2,340,000	3,260,000	5,600,000	No
60	Settled—Damages Paid	5,555,000	0	5,555,000	Yes
61	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	1,986,348	3,513,652	5,500,000	Yes
62	Settled—Damages Paid	5,500,000	0	5,500,000	Yes
63	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,036,063	3,422,309	5,458,372	No
64	Periodical Payments	2,152,913	3,247,087	5,400,000	Yes
65	Settled—Damages Paid	5,375,148	0	5,375,148	Yes
66	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,400,000	2,950,000	5,350,000	Yes
67	Periodical Payments	2,356,490	2,970,794	5,327,284	Yes
68	Periodical Payments	2,614,364	2,685,636	5,300,000	Yes
69	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	1,356,181	3,903,819	5,260,000	Yes
70	Periodical Payments	2,624,557	2,632,669	5,257,226	Yes
71	Periodical Payments	2,436,230	2,763,770	5,200,000	Yes
72	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	1,913,000	3,229,395	5,142,395	Yes
73	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,325,760	2,810,568	5,136,328	Yes
74	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,010,000	3,115,000	5,125,000	Yes
75	Settled—Damages Paid	5,007,137	0	5,007,137	No
76	Settled—Damages Paid	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	Yes
77	Periodical Payments	1,888,357	3,111,643	5,000,000	Yes
78	Periodical Payments	1,430,000	3,570,000	5,000,000	No
79	Periodical Payments and Indemnity Given	1,955,660	3,044,340	5,000,000	No
80	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,397,539	2,602,461	5,000,000	No
81	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,370,411	2,629,590	5,000,000	Yes

100 largest clinical negligence scheme for trust claims closed[1] or settled as periodical payment[2] as at 31 August 2010

Number	Status	Damages paid (£)	Outstanding damages (£)	Total damages (£)	Obstetric claim
82	Periodical Payments with Reverse Indemnity	2,542,272	2,357,728	4,900,000	Yes
83	Periodical Payments	2,200,000	2,650,000	4,850,000	Yes
84	Settled—Damages Paid	4,850,000	0	4,850,000	Yes
85	Periodical Payments	1,816,563	3,004,535	4,821,098	Yes
86	Settled—Damages Paid	4,817,988	0	4,817,988	Yes
87	Periodical Payments	2,000,000	2,805,720	4,805,720	Yes
88	Periodical Payments	2,233,846	2,566,154	4,800,000	Yes
89	Periodical Payments	2,037,500	2,742,500	4,780,000	Yes
90	Periodical Payments	1,750,715	2,999,285	4,750,000	Yes
91	Periodical Payments	1,889,572	2,860,428	4,750,000	Yes
92	Settled—Damages Paid	4,750,000	0	4,750,000	Yes
93	Periodical Payments	1,856,929	2,856,071	4,713,000	Yes
94	Periodical Payments	2,135,833	2,561,686	4,697,519	No
95	Periodical Payments	2,280,928	2,389,072	4,670,000	Yes
96	Periodical Payments	2,123,326	2,543,833	4,667,159	No
97	Periodical Payments and Indemnity Given	2,120,016	2,542,305	4,662,321	Yes
98	Periodical Payments	1,300,000	3,350,000	4,650,000	No
99	Periodical Payments	1,383,960	3,255,080	4,639,040	Yes
100	Periodical Payments	2,535,376	2,077,134	4,612,510	Yes

[1] Closed claims are claims where final payment has been made.

[2] Periodical payments are claims where ongoing payments are made to the claimant.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers and officials in his Department and *(b)* representatives of the private and voluntary sectors on prescription charges; [134151]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers and officials in his Department and *(b)* representatives of the private and voluntary sectors on the Prescription Pricing Authority. [134161]

Mr Simon Burns: In the period 12 May 2010 to 9 September 2010, there were four discussions with ministerial colleagues and officials in the Department concerning prescription charges and none concerning NHS Prescription Services (formerly the Prescription Pricing Authority). In the same period, Ministers had one discussion with representatives from the private and voluntary sectors on prescription charges but had none concerning the NHS Prescription Services.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which long-term illnesses qualify people for free prescriptions; whether he plans to amend this list; and if he will make a statement. [14433]

Mr Simon Burns: The list of medical exemptions is contained in SI 2000, No. 620, as amended. In England, a person is entitled to apply for a medical exemption certificate if they suffer from:

a permanent fistula (including caecostomy, colostomy, laryngostomy, or ileostomy) which requires continuous surgical dressing or requires an appliance;

forms of hypoadrenalism (including Addison's disease) for which specific substitution therapy is essential;

diabetes insipidus or other forms of hypopituitarism;

diabetes mellitus (except where treatment of the diabetes is by diet alone);

hypoparathyroidism;

myasthenia gravis;

myxoedema;

epilepsy requiring continuous anti-convulsive therapy;

continuing physical disability which prevents the patient from leaving his residence without the help of another person; or

they are undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of current or previous cancer treatment (from 1 April 2009).

Decisions on any future changes to the system of prescription charges and exemptions in England would need to be taken in the context of the next Spending Review, which is due to report on 20 October.

School Milk

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the nursery milk scheme on the health of children under five years; [13593]

(2) what arrangements his Department plans to put in place to mark World School Milk day; [13612]

(3) what recent assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of ending the nursery milk scheme on children from low-income families; [13613]

(4) what recent representations his Department has received from the dairy sector on proposals to end the nursery milk scheme; [13615]

(5) what evidence his Department took into account in its assessment that the nursery milk scheme was not effective; [13616]

(6) if he will place in the Library a copy of each response received from devolved Administrations on proposals to abolish the nursery milk scheme. [13617]

Anne Milton: The Department has no plans to end the nursery milk scheme or to mark World School Milk day. Dairy UK wrote to Ministers on 4 August 2010.

The Department is unaware of any external studies undertaken on the effectiveness of the nursery milk scheme. It is well known that milk is a source of important nutrients (such as calcium) as part of a balanced varied diet for young children, and we are continuing with the scheme.

A response was sent by the Scottish Government on 6 August 2010 to the Department. The Department received no other correspondence from the devolved Administrations. It is not usual practice to place copies of inter-ministerial correspondence in the Library.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the future funding of the nursery milk scheme will be included in the Spending Review. [13594]

Anne Milton: The Department has no plans to end the nursery milk scheme.

Smoking

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many jobs in smoke-free partnerships are funded directly or indirectly by his Department; at what cost to the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [14461]

Anne Milton: This information is not held centrally.

There is no standard template for funding because these partnerships have grown up over the years to reflect the public health priorities in the particular areas which they serve. Smoking is a major cause of early death and disease and we will make clear our priorities in this area in the public health White Paper later this year.

Smoke-free partnerships vary in composition but they have in common close co-operation at the local and regional levels between national health service, local government, other Government Departments such as HM Revenue and Customs, voluntary sector groups and private sector organisations with an interest in tackling smoking.

They have developed as a result of local initiatives to prioritise activity on smoking in those regions which have the highest prevalence and the greatest health burden resulting from smoking. They originally grew out of initiatives in the early 1990s when the White Paper on the health of the nation published in July 1992 encouraged activity at this level. They have evolved into their existing form during the last 10 years. The smoke-free partnership in the south-west has only been operating for the last two years and has the highest level of funding from its agreement with the primary care trusts (PCTs) in the region.

Levels of funding and sources of funding for the partnerships has changed over the years. There have been some years especially between 2004 and 2009 when central funding was made available. In those regions with smoke-free partnerships this central funding would have been added to the funds raised locally.

Those regions which do not have a smoke-free partnership have in recent years been more heavily dependent on central funding and on the activities of the Regional Tobacco Policy Manager. With the changes brought about in response to the current financial situation some regions have dispensed with their Regional Tobacco Policy Managers. The levels of activity on smoking issues therefore varies considerably.

The regions with smoke-free partnerships are currently principally funded from agreements developed with PCTs. Changes in the NHS (as set out in the recently published NHS White Paper) and the ending of PCTs will result in further changes in the immediate future.

The publication of the public health White Paper later this year and the development of the public health service in line with the Government's new priorities will also impact on the smoke-free partnerships, their future work and funding. Whether previous funding arrangements remain appropriate for the future is an issue, which will have to be considered in due course both at national level and by their funders at local and regional level.

Spinal Injuries

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to the NHS of treating spinal problems. [14263]

Mr Simon Burns: Based on returns submitted in reference costs, the estimated cost to the national health service of secondary care relating to spinal surgery and spinal disorders in 2008-09 was £417 million. This does not represent the total cost because it excludes general practitioner consultations, out-patient attendances, prescribing and other costs related to the treatment of spinal problems, which cannot be separately identified.

Tuberculosis: Health Services

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent from the public purse on the treatment of *(a)* multi drug-resistant and *(b)* extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in each of the last five years; [13519]

(2) what the average cost of treating a patient with *(a)* drug responsive, *(b)* multi drug-resistant and *(c)* extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis was in the latest period for which figures are available. [13520]

Anne Milton: The available information on prescription of drugs for tuberculosis (TB) does not allow identification of the particular diagnosis made in individual patients, as there may be overlap between the drugs used to treat multi drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) or extremely drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB). It is also likely that patients with drug-resistant TB will receive other drugs that are also used to treat other conditions, and it is not possible to identify what proportion of the use of such drugs would be for such patients.

Information on expenditure on drugs prescribed to treat TB is shown in the table.

	Net ingredient cost (£000)		
Calendar year	*Prescription cost analysis database*	*Hospital prescribing database*	*Combined total*
2005	1,894.2	4,509.8	6,404.1
2006	2,105.7	4,526.0	6,631.6
2007	2,310.9	4,710.0	7,020.9
2008	2,106.3	5,463.7	7,570.0

Calendar year	Net ingredient cost (£000)		
	Prescription cost analysis database	Hospital prescribing database	Combined total
2009	1,748.1	5,356.4	7,104.5

Notes:
1. Net ingredient cost (NIC) is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees, prescription charges income or other costs such as staff time.
2. The table shows the NIC of drugs classified by Prescription Services as being for the treatment of tuberculosis from the prescription cost analysis database, which covers prescriptions dispensed in the community. Data for the same drugs have been extracted from the Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index, which provides an estimate of the cost of drugs used in hospitals. The cost of drugs for hospital use is not necessarily the actual price paid but is the cost of the drugs issued priced using the price lists that apply to prescribing.
3. Hospital dispensing information is provided by IMS
www.imshealth.com
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

A study has estimated that the average costs of managing a case of pulmonary drug sensitive TB or MDR-TB are about £6,000 and £60,000 respectively.[1] Costs of treating XDR-TB are likely to be higher than for MDR-TB, as the cost of drugs may be more expensive, the course of treatment may be longer and other related costs such as for in-patient and out-patient care may be greater.

[1] White, VLC, Moore-Gillon, J. Resource implications of patients with multidrug resistant tuberculosis. "Thorax 2000"; 55: 962-963.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Handbooks

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Audit Commission's staff handbook. [15078]

Robert Neill: A copy of the Audit Commission's terms and conditions document has been placed in the Library of the House.

Please note that although this is the current document some changes have been made to the Commission's car scheme in response to the announcement to disband the Commission. All current orders have been cancelled and no new orders will be made. Drivers have been asked to use their current car beyond the normal lease end and any cars returned by redundant staff are being reallocated.

Audit Commission: Labour Party

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Audit Commission made a payment of £10,143.44 to the Labour Party in 2009-10. [15061]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 14 September 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Payment was made to the Labour Party in 2009-10 for attendance at the Party Conference, as follows:

exhibition space at the Labour Party Conference 2009—£9,100.00

four nights overnight accommodation for our previous Chief Executive, Steve Bundred, at the Hilton Metropole Brighton in the secure zone—£1,043.44

The Chief Executive attended the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Party conferences in 2009 where the Commission also exhibited.

Audit Commission: Plants

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on pot plants by the Audit Commission in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [15067]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 14 September 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission spent £40,499 excluding VAT on plant displays in 2009/10 as published on the Commission's website.

In 2008/09 the Commission spent £27,814 excluding VAT on plant displays.

Spend on plants in 2008/09 is lower than 2009/10 due to the timing of payments.

Plant displays are used in approximately 20 Audit Commission offices.

Audit Commission: Public Relations

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many communications, marketing and press staff are employed by the Audit Commission; and at what cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [15051]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 14 September 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

In the financial year ending 31 March 2010 the Communications directorate had a total of 48 posts, which included a national publishing centre, design team, digital media team, events team, regional communication managers, internal communications team, direct marketing officers and a national press office. Staff costs for this period were £2,352,517.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by the Audit Commission under its contract with Connect Public Affairs. [15060]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 14 September 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has spent £66,291.76 (excluding VAT) under its contract with Connect Public Affairs. This contract was terminated in February 2010.

Audit Commission: Smith Institute

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether directors of the Audit Commission have had meetings with representatives of the Smith Institute in the last 18 months. [15064]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 14 September 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Managing Director of Policy, Research & Studies met with Paul Hackett, Director of the Smith Institute on 15 September 2009.

The Managing Director of Communications met with Paul Hackett, Director of the Smith Institute on 4 March 2010.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13473]

Robert Neill: For information in respect of 2008-09 and 2009-10, I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statements made on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 118WS and on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 82WS.

Information for earlier years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Plants

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on pot plants by his Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [15065]

Robert Neill: The following table identifies how much Communities and Local Government spent on the maintenance of existing pot plants since 2004, including details of the *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 spend:

Contract year	*Cost (£)*
July 2004 to June 2005	5,555.88
July 2005 to June 2006	5,555.88
July 2006 to June 2007	6,634.32
July 2007 to June 2008	6,634.32
July 2008 to June 2009	6,634.32
July 2009 to June 2010	6,454.58
July 2010 to September 2010	1,388.97
Total	38,858.27

In July 2004, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister signed a contract with Mitie for maintenance of internal plants in Eland House. In July 2010, the Department gave due notice that this contract will be terminated; the contract will formally end in September 2010.

The pot plants are owned by the Department, rather than leased. When the contract ends, as suggested by staff in feedback on departmental cost savings, the plants will be looked after by departmental staff on a voluntary basis. No new pot plants have been procured since May 2010. A copy of the relevant section of the 2004 contract on internal planting has been placed in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Kent and Medway fire and rescue authority on plans to regionalise fire service control rooms. [15159]

Robert Neill: In August I visited Kent and Medway fire and rescue authority and discussed the FiReControl project as one element of a wider discussion on fire related issues.

Homelessness

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to enable local authorities to assist those in priority groups as defined by the Homelessness Act 2002 into housing in the private rented sector in respect of which the lease is less than 10 years in duration. [15326]

Grant Shapps: Local housing authorities are already able to assist people in the statutory priority need groups who have been accepted as unintentionally homeless by providing them with accommodation leased from a private sector landlord for a period less than 10 years. At the end of June there were around 50,000 households being assisted under the homelessness legislation in temporary accommodation, of which around 61% were in accommodation leased from a private sector landlord. Authorities can also arrange for people in the statutory priority need groups who are unintentionally homeless to be offered assured shorthold tenancies in the private rented sector. Where the applicant makes an informed decision to accept such an offer, the homelessness duty comes to an end.

Housing Associations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* reduce the number of housing associations operating in individual local authority areas and *(b)* ensure that housing associations are based in the areas they serve. [14818]

Grant Shapps: Housing associations are private sector bodies. The Secretary of State has no locus in limiting the number of associations operating within a local authority area or in insisting that they are only based in the areas which they own or manage property.

Housing Associations: Pay

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the salaries paid to chief executives and other senior officials of housing associations; and if he will make a statement. [14811]

Grant Shapps: Housing associations are obliged by law to publish the salary of their highest paid director in their annual report. We expect housing associations to show restraint when setting or renegotiating remuneration packages for their senior staff. As a Department we will seek to proactively highlight the pay of housing association directors and will invite the NHF to help to highlight excessive housing association executive pay to drive down costs.

Local Authorities: Public Relations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will encourage local authorities to cease to employ external public relations companies; and if he will make a statement. [14816]

Robert Neill: I will shortly be consulting on strengthening the statutory Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity so as to stop taxpayers' money being spent on private lobbying contractors, used by local authorities to persuade the public to take a particular view on specific policies.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultations are taking place on proposals for local enterprise partnerships. [14083]

Robert Neill: The closing date for submitting local enterprise partnership proposals to the Government was 6 September 2010. I am pleased to confirm that Government received 57 proposals from groups of councils and businesses from across the country. A joint press notice is available on the CLG and BIS websites.

These will be locally owned partnerships, in contrast to the top-down prescriptive approach taken previously by the arbitrary boundaries of regional development agencies. As such it will be up to local areas to assemble partnerships proposals and consult appropriately.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the deadline is for submissions to be made to his Department for consultations on local enterprise partnerships. [14084]

Robert Neill: The closing day for submitting local enterprise partnership proposals to the Government was 6 September 2010. I am pleased to confirm that Government received 57 proposals from groups of councils and businesses from across the country. A joint press notice is available on the CLG and BIS websites.

Ministers have been impressed by many of the proposals which reflect the importance of allowing local areas to determine their own economic development and drive private sector job growth—unconstrained by arbitrary boundaries of regional development agencies and the top-down prescriptive approach taken previously.

Local Government

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the total number of statutory duties required of local councils in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [13566]

Robert Neill: No estimate has been made. We are committed to reducing top-down burdens on local authorities from legislation, guidance and other forms of prescription.

Local Strategic Partnerships

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of local strategic partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [14465]

Robert Neill: Local strategic partnerships are non-statutory groups of local organisations, led by local authorities, coming together voluntarily to work in partnership. Decisions on their future, including composition, accountability and structures, are entirely a matter for local areas themselves.

Mayors: Conduct

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Northampton North of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 487W, on mayors, whether he plans to propose a power for electors to recall an elected mayor. [13784]

Robert Neill: Our plans, as set out in the Structural Reform Plan, published by my Department on 8 July, are to legislate through the localism Bill for directly elected mayors to enable the largest 12 cities in England to have mayors from 2012, subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected councillors.

Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport the merits of the relaxation by the Arts Council of free entry conditions on capital grants to local authorities to permit the charging of admission to *(a)* art galleries and *(b)* other arts venues. [14411]

Robert Neill: This coalition Government have already reduced ring-fencing on grants to local authorities by £1.2 billion in 2010-11 and, in the context of the current spending review, will look to reduce ring-fencing even further. This will increase local authorities' freedom and the flexibility to allocate funding more appropriately to their local conditions and priorities.

Ordnance Survey: Public Sector

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the public sector mapping agreement supersedes previous agreements between Ordnance Survey and individual local authorities. [14749]

Robert Neill: The public sector mapping agreement (PSMA) will supersede previous agreements between Ordnance Survey and local authorities only where those were part of the current local government mapping services agreement (MSA), which is due to expire on 31 March 2011.

In addition to the MSA, Ordnance Survey has agreements with some individual local authorities for the licensing of data, or usage, not covered by the MSA. It is expected that this type of arrangement will continue outside the PSMA, if local authorities have needs for mapping data not covered by the PSMA.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 532W, on renewable energy: planning permission, when key decisions and the way forward on amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 for small-scale wind turbines and air source heat pumps will be announced. [15394]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to introduce permitted development rights for small-scale wind turbines and air source heat pumps, as part of our agenda to support renewable energy and low-carbon technologies. There are a number of technical and practical issues that we are considering. We are aiming to resolve these, and to make key announcements and legislative changes as soon as possible.

Repossession Orders: Wiltshire

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in North Swindon constituency were repossessed in each of the last five years. [14792]

Grant Shapps: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2680

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Other_publications/statistics/index.shtml

Social Rented Housing

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to consult tenants groups on the future of secure tenancies in social rented housing. [13838]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are absolutely committed to protecting the security of tenure and rights of those currently living in social housing. With a record 5 million people on social housing waiting lists it is right that we should look at ways of improving the system for new tenancies, and consider how best to help the most vulnerable in our society. How we make best use of our social housing should be a matter for open debate and discussion, and we welcome the views of tenant groups as part of this. On 4 August, we announced our plans for a National Affordable Home Swap Scheme, which will allow social tenants to move—such as for family or employment reasons—without losing their footing on the social housing ladder, so increasing the tenure rights and opportunities of those in social housing.

Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies take into account rolling resistance as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres. [13551]

Robert Neill: The Department does not directly purchase tyres.

Fire Service College does not take account of rolling resistance when purchasing vehicle tyres. Its purchasing criteria are based on best value for money.

Planning Inspectorate and Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre do not purchase tyres.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 15 September 2010

JUSTICE

Contracts

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration his Department has given in its invitation to tender for *(a)* prison law and *(b)* family law services in 2010 to ensuring that the technical and professional ability specifications are (i) reasonable and proportionate and (ii) compliant with the provisions of clause 15 (12) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. [14553]

Mr Djanogly: In respect of the tender for family services, prior to the tender process the service specifications were the subject of a formal consultation that opened on 31 October 2008 and closed on 23 January 2009. They were then adjusted in light of comments received.

The prison law requirements were similarly the subject of a formal public consultation that ran from 10 February 2009 to 5 May 2009. The 2010 Standard Crime Contract Specification, which includes the prison law provisions, was then subject to a formal technical consultation with the Law Society in September 2009.

Across all tenders for 2010 contracts, including prison law and family law, applicants have been required to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire. This included sections on technical experience, business conduct and financial conduct. Tenders that failed to satisfy the Legal Service Commission's pre-qualification requirements were assessed as unsuccessful.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment of capacity to carry out work his Department makes in determining the allocation of matter starts to companies tendering under the Legal Services Commission contract which commences on 14 October 2010. [14785]

Mr Djanogly: As part of the tender process for 2010 contracts the Legal Services Commission (LSC) (who, as the body that administers the legal aid budget, managed the tender process) applied a 'capacity test' across civil areas of work. The threshold of capacity was specific to each category of law and limited the number of matter starts per full time equivalent staff member (FTE) delivering the service.

Further to this upfront safeguard, the LSC is also undertaking a verification exercise whereby they are seeking confirmation from successful applicants that they are in a position to deliver the work they have been allocated for the start date of the new contract.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against the tender decisions made in respect of Legal Services Commission (LSC) contracts due to commence on 14 October 2010 in *(a)* north-east wales, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* England the LSC is considering. [14786]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has received 1,050 appeals nationally as of 9 September 2010. The LSC does not hold the information requested broken down by geographical areas. The tender process is ongoing. Not all tender notifications have been made and in some cases the appeals period against the tender process is still open.

County Courts

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what consultation he plans to undertake with *(a)* magistrates, *(b)* district judges and *(c)* others on the implementation of his proposals to abolish county courts boards; [14672]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total level of savings that will arise from the abolition of courts boards. [14673]

Mr Djanogly: None. The decision to abolish Courts Boards was taken by the previous Government and announced as part of the March 2010 Budget statement. The coalition Government have decided to proceed with the abolition.

The Department expects to save approximately £450,000 per year from the abolition of the Courts Boards. This amount includes remuneration to members, travel and subsistence payments, recruitment costs and other ad hoc and administration expenses.

Courts: Operating Costs

Jonathan Lord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total running costs were of the Surrey and Sussex Courts Board in each of the last four years. [14671]

Mr Djanogly: The remuneration, travel and subsistence costs for the Surrey and Sussex Courts Board for the last four years are as follows.

	£
2006-07	12,632
2007-08	12,363
2008-09	9,856
2009-10	9,500

The above do not include additional costs for recruitment, HMCS staffing, and administration/ad hoc expenditure. These costs could either not be quantified or could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Custodial Treatment: North Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women received immediate custodial sentences from courts in north Wales in the last five years. [15312]

Mr Blunt: The number of males and females sentenced to immediate custodial sentences by courts in north Wales, 2004 to 2008 are shown in the table.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of males and females sentenced to immediate custodial sentence in North Wales, 2004-08[1, 2]

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Male	1083	1097	1039	1001	1132
Female	85	94	61	76	84
Total	1,168	1,191	1,100	1,077	1,216

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Court Categorisation

Crown Courts: area categorisation based on the prosecuting police force area (which is not necessarily the area of the sentencing court). If another agency has brought the prosecution, area categorisation is based on the criminal justice area of the sentencing court.

Magistrates Courts: As part of the rollout of the Libra case management system in magistrates courts during 2008. a change was made to the categorisation by area. Sentences given at courts using the Libra system are categorised according to the criminal justice area of the court while others are categorised in the same way as the Crown Court. By the end of 2008, all magistrates courts were using Libra. Police forces do not prosecute minor offences (those that are sentenced at magistrates courts) outside their areas. Only around 0.01% of sentences at magistrates courts were affected in 2007 and 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics - Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [14935]

Mr Blunt: In July 2010 the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr Kenneth Clarke) and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Djanogly) hosted events. The costs are as follows:

Date	*Event*	*Cost (£)*
Kenneth Clarke QC		
5 July 2010	Lunch with the Russian Justice Minister	117.75
14 July 2010	Interview and lunch with newspaper journalist	12.80
27 July 2010	Justice Committee drinks	26.55
Total		157.10
Jonathan Djanogly		
7 July 2010	Legal Aid stakeholder meeting (small providers)	38.20
12 July 2010	Legal Aid stakeholder meeting (large providers)	59.00
13 July 2010	Legal Aid stakeholder meeting (representative bodies)	47.00
Total		144.20

Fixed Penalties: Shoplifting

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a fixed penalty system for offences related to shoplifting in order to reduce expenditure on prosecutions. [14784]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since 2004 penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) have been available to the police to deal quickly and effectively with low-level, antisocial and nuisance offending, including minor instances of shoplifting. The scheme allows the police to spend more time on frontline duties and provides an alternative to prosecution in appropriate cases.

In July 2009 revised operational guidance was issued to police forces to restrict the issue of PNDs for retail theft to first-time offenders who are not substance mis-users and to cases where the value of goods stolen does not exceed £100.

The scheme is not designed to tackle more serious offending, which should be prosecuted at court.

The Government are undertaking a full assessment of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting reoffending. We will be considering our approach to all out-of-court disposals as part of this work.

Legal Aid: Families

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal practices in *(a)* Houghton and Sunderland South constituency and *(b)* Sunderland were awarded contracts to provide family legal aid services in the latest period for which figures are available. [14636]

Mr Djanogly: The number of legal practices under contract to the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to provide family legal aid in *(a)* Houghton and Sunderland South constituency is three and *(b)* Sunderland Central is eight, in the contracted period between April 2010 and October 2010. The LSC is currently in the process of completing the tender for new contracts due to start in November 2010.

Magistrates Courts: Fines

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total amount is of fines issued in magistrates courts in the last three years which remain unpaid. [14579]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS systems do not currently identify how many or how much of the value of fines imposed just in magistrates courts within a certain period remain outstanding, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all fine accounts.

However HMCS systems can identify the total amount imposed within the last three years and the total value outstanding. The total value outstanding can relate to fines imposed in any previous period and includes financial penalties imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004-06) and financial penalties which are being paid by instalments.

The total amount imposed and balance outstanding includes fines imposed in the magistrates and Crown courts, compensation, costs, victims surcharge and the value of unpaid fixed penalty notices that are transferred to HMCS for enforcement as a fine. The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances.

£

	Total amount imposed	*Total amount outstanding*
2007-08	376,569,882	500,630,569
2008-09	393,121,639	544,890,624
2009-10	406,670,167	588,475,304

Prison Service: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of prisoners to prison officers is across the Prison Service. [15232]

Mr Blunt: The ratio of prisoners to prisoner officers in all public sector prisons in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010 is one officer to 3.03 prisoners (1:3.03).

The ratio of prison to prisoner officers in all private prisons in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010 is one officer to 3.78 prisoners (1:3.78)

Prison officers includes all officer grades within the public sector and private prisons. Data provided are on headcount basis (part timers count as one).

Prison Service: Training

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the *(a)* Prison Service and *(b)* probation service have spent on places on the course Delivering Effective Penal Policy: Taking a Radical New Approach to Short-Term Sentences, organised by CPPS seminars. [15273]

Mr Blunt: I can confirm that Prison Service spend for the financial year 2010-11 for the cost of staff attending the course 'Delivering Effective Penal Policy: Taking a Radical New Approach to Short-Term Sentences', organised by CPPS seminars, is £ 293.75 including VAT.

The probation service data are not routinely collected.

Prisoners: Literacy

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners learnt to read while serving their sentences in each of the last five years. [15002]

Mr Blunt: Neither the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) nor the Skills Funding Agency routinely collect this information. However, we are able to provide information on the number of Level 1 literacy qualifications achieved.

Gaining a Level 1 literacy qualification demonstrates that a learner has attained the 'functional' level of literacy which people need to get by in life and at work.

The Skills Funding Agency are able to provide information on the number of Entry level and Level 1 literacy qualifications achieved by adult prisoners in public sector prisons in England as recorded on Individualised Learner Records. The following table shows the Entry Level and Level 1 achievement data for the last three academic years.

Academic year	*Entry level and Level 1 Literacy aims achieved*[1]
2006/07 (August 2006 to July 2007)	5,089
2007/08 (August 2007 to July 2008)	10,503
2008/09 (August 2008 to July 2009)	10,055

[1] Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) funded delivery in custody for aged 18 and over.

Notes:

1. A learning aim is a generic term which includes qualifications, courses and learning events under a general title. A learning aim is, in the wider FE system, a single element of learning that attracts funding.
2. The Skills Funding Agency have responsibility for planning and funding learning and skills delivery for learners in public sector prisons and young offenders' institutions in England through the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS). It excludes private prisons, prisons in Wales and Immigration Removal Centres.
3. The data collected records the number of learning aims enrolled in a year rather than individual learners. As learners may enrol on more than one literacy or numeracy course in any year, and may achieve at one level and progress to the next level, the number of enrolments and achievements does not represent individual learners.
4. The data includes prisoners who have not been sentenced, who are remanded in custody pending trial or sentencing.

The Toe by Toe scheme operated by the Shannon Trust in prisons makes an important contribution to the development of prisoners' reading. Through peer-mentors, they support and encourage emergent readers, enabling them to progress into activity where their literacy skills can be accredited.

Prisons: Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many closed visits there have been in each prison in each of the last three years. [15014]

Mr Blunt: In 2008-09, the last year for which data are available, 1,543 visitors to prisons were made subject to a period of closed visits following a visiting ban, 374 visitors were made subject to a period of closed visits instead of a visiting ban, and 1,871 prisoners were made subject to a period of closed visits.

In 2007-08, 1,638 visitors to prisons were made subject to a period of closed visits following a visiting ban, 414 visitors were made subject to a period of closed visits instead of a visiting ban, and 1,939 prisoners were made subject to a period of closed visits.

In 2006-07, 1,684 visitors to prisons were made subject to a period of closed visits following a visiting ban, 494 visitors were made subject to a period of closed visits instead of a visiting ban, and 1,813 prisoners were made subject to a period of closed visits.

Data are collated regionally and monthly; to provide data for each prison would require a manual trawl through three years' of data, which would incur disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Rape

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the funding of *(a)* rape crisis centres and *(b)* sexual assault referral centres in 2011-12. [14776]

Mr Blunt: Decisions on funding for 2011-12 will be made following the comprehensive spending review.

TV: Licensing

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a custodial sentence on conviction for non-payment of a TV licence in the last two years. [15386]

Mr Blunt: A person cannot be sentenced to imprisonment if convicted of an offence under section 363 of the Communications Act 2003. The maximum penalty for not having a valid TV Licence is a £1,000 fine. The court may also order the convicted person to pay for TV Licensing's costs in the proceedings. The means by which a person could be sentenced to immediate custody would be if they refused to pay the fine but they would be sentenced to custody for the non-payment of the fine and not for TV licence evasion.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Pay

Mr MacShane: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W, on departmental manpower, how many staff employed by the House of Commons Commission are paid an annual salary of *(a)* under £25,000, *(b)* between £25,000 and £65,000, *(c)* between £65,000 and £100,000, *(d)* more than £100,000 and *(e)* more than £150,000. [14610]

Sir Stuart Bell: As at 30 June 2010, the House of Commons employed 1,639 full-time equivalent staff of whom 80 were temporary. The number of individuals employed was 1,789. Their annual salaries fall into the following ranges:

	Number
Under £24,999	889
£25,000 to £64,999	814
£65,000 to £99,999	72
£100,000 to £149,999	13
More than £150,000	1

NORTHERN IRELAND

Big Society

5. **Jake Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on implementation of the Government's big society proposals in Northern Ireland. [14506]

Mr Swire: I am a member of the Ministerial Committee on the Big Society and I am meeting next month with the noble Lord, Lord Wei, who advises Government on these matters to discuss how best to engage with Northern Ireland Executive Ministers on the big society agenda. These issues are largely devolved in Northern Ireland but we would be happy to share ideas and collaborate where that is appropriate.

US Investment

9. **Mel Stride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on inward investment in Northern Ireland. [14510]

Mr Swire: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State discussed inward investment with the US Consul General in Belfast in July and at his meetings with Declan Kelly, the US economic envoy to Northern Ireland. He will discuss these matters again when he visits the United States later this month in advance of the US Investment Conference in October.

Economic Development

12. **David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on economic development in Northern Ireland. [14514]

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on economic development in Northern Ireland. [14511]

Mr Swire: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Christopher Pincher).

Assembly Constituencies

11. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the implications for the number of seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly of the Government's policy to create fewer and more equal-sized constituencies. [14512]

Mr Swire: We have had a range of discussions on this issue. Since Assembly elections are based on parliamentary constituencies, changes in parliamentary electoral arrangements would have an impact on the Assembly. But the Government have no intention of dictating the size of the Assembly, which is in the first instance a matter for the Assembly itself to consider. Once the issue has been considered the Government will bring forward any necessary legislation.

Economy

13. **Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the state of the Northern Ireland economy. [14516]

Mr Swire: Economic issues are largely devolved in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Executive Ministers share the view of my right hon. Friend and I that the private sector in Northern Ireland needs to grow. Almost 30% of Northern Ireland jobs are public sector jobs compared to a UK average of around 20%. Our aim is to seek to rebalance the economy in partnership with the Executive.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [14934]

Mr Paterson: The total amount spent in July was £554.50.

Parades

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on proposals for changes to legislation regulating parades in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [14515]

Mr Paterson: This legislation is a matter for the Executive under the arrangements set out in the Hillsborough Castle Agreement. It is for the Executive to find a solution for all the people in Northern Ireland. I will give my formal consent to the Assembly legislation as soon as I receive such a request from the First and Deputy First Ministers. But if a local solution cannot be found I will have no alternative but to continue the Parades Commission.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13313]

Richard Benyon: The proportion of correctly presented invoices from suppliers paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010 was as follows:

		Percentage
	July 2010	*August 2010*
Core DEFRA	97.25	99.85
Veterinary Medicines Agency	97	98
Veterinary Laboratory Agency	92.1	91.6
Animal Health	99.8	99.76
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	86.5	89.9
Food and Environment Research Agency	96.9	89.9
Rural Payments Agency	98.65	100

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value of payments made under the *(a)* Entry Level, *(b)* Higher Level and *(c)* Upper Entry Level Stewardship schemes was in 2009-10. [15175]

Mr Paice: The monetary value in 2009-10 of:

(a) Entry Level Stewardship scheme payments was £161,085,554.18;

(b) Higher Level Stewardship scheme payments was £69,179,089.99; and

(c) the first Uplands Entry Level Stewardship agreements commenced on 1 July 2010, with payments due twice yearly. Therefore, no payments have yet been made.

EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* for most of their time on the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [13780]

Richard Benyon: A large proportion of DEFRA's business takes place in the context of legislation adopted in the EU following negotiation with other member states, the European Commission and the European Parliament. Consequently a substantial majority of staff in the Department (who totalled 8,110 full-time equivalents in 2009-10) will be engaged in EU-derived business. The Department does not hold data analysing how much of each post is EU-related, and it cannot be generated without incurring disproportionate costs.

Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies take into account rolling resistance as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres. [13552]

Richard Benyon: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies, do not specifically include rolling resistance in all considerations for purchasing tyres, relying on maintenance and fleet management suppliers to provide what is consistent with manufacturers recommendations for the vehicle and suitable for the terrain on which the vehicle will be used.

Examples of where it is taken into account:

Environment Agency which has a policy to fit environmental (green) tyres across their fleet. It purchases approximately 85% green Michelin tyres which are low rolling resistance. In addition to this, whilst there may be occasional issues with fitting green tyres on certain vehicles (e.g. 4x4s vehicles) there are now approximately 75% of all 4x4 tyres that are developed with green credentials in mind for rolling resistance.

Natural England's Pool Car Fleet is managed by a Fleet management supplier whose, tyre replacement policy is to use Michelin Tyres, as this manufacturer produces some of the lowest rolling resistance tyres within its brand.

TREASURY

Bereavement Allowance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of treating bereavement allowance as non-taxable income; and if he will make a statement. [14615]

Mr Gauke: Bereavement allowance is a contributory benefit, and it is appropriate that where a benefit replaces earnings, it is liable to tax.

However, as with all other taxpayers, a person's tax liability depends upon their total taxable income from all sources and the income tax allowances to which they are entitled. The rates of income tax are set by Parliament, but someone whose only income is the basic bereavement allowance, for instance, will not pay tax because their personal tax allowance would cover this.

All taxes and benefits are kept under review.

Charities: Private Education

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual tax revenue forgone by the Exchequer as a result of the charitable status of private schools. [15221]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made of the annual tax revenue forgone by the Exchequer as a result of the charitable status of private schools because HMRC records do not distinguish amounts repaid to or claimed by charities according to type of charity.

Child Benefit

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of malicious counterclaims for child benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [13452]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not keep statistical information on how many child benefit claims are perceived to be malicious nor does the Department record how many competing claims resulted in an existing claimant's child benefit being stopped.

HMRC received around 140,000 claims to child benefit during 2009-10, where another adult was already claiming for the same child or children, and have received around 46,500 such claims in 2010-11 up to and including August 2010. Reliable information is not available for 2008-09 and earlier years.

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people earning over £37,401 in *(a)* England, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency receive child benefit. [15129]

Mr Gauke: We estimate that around 312,000 adults in England have incomes over £37,401 and also receive child benefit payments in 2009-10.

The information for Dudley borough and Dudley North is unavailable.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7497]

Justine Greening: The available information requested is shown in the following table. HM Treasury does not hold a central record of the purchase of all televisions by individual teams and the figures provided represent centrally purchased televisions only.

HM Treasury data prior to 2005-06 cannot be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

DMO data prior to 2002-03 are not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system.

£000

	HM Treasury	*Debt Management Office (DMO)*
2002-03	n/a	0
2003-04	n/a	0
2004-05	n/a	0
2005-06	5	0
2006-07	7	9
2007-08	0	3
2008-09	2	4
2009-10	0	0

No televisions have been purchased by the Asset Protection Agency or the Royal Mint Advisory Committee.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13326]

Justine Greening: The Treasury does not hold a central record of transport-related fines.

A review of payments to the Government Car and Despatch Agency since 2005 revealed the following information:

	Tickets	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	1	47
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	6	423
2008-09	0	0
2009-10	2	120

Departmental Internet

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons it was decided not to moderate the content of contributions to his Department's Spending Challenge website. [13985]

Justine Greening: The Spending Challenge website had a strict moderation policy and a dedicated team kept a close eye on content posted in order to remove the minority of ideas that were inappropriate as soon as possible. Content was moderated post-publication as per industry standards.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* others represent his Department on the spending review challenge group. [15022]

Danny Alexander: The civil service members of the Independent Challenge Group do not represent their Departments, but act in an independent capacity to bring challenge to the spending review process. There is one member of the Independent Challenge Group (ICG) from the Department for Communities and Local Government: Andrew Campbell, Acting Director General, Local Government and Regeneration, Communities and Local Government. The ICG membership list, including departmental affiliations, was made public on 4 August, and is published in full on the HM Treasury website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_icg_members.htm

Food: Prices

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of food price inflation *(a)* was on the latest date for which information is available and *(b)* is forecast to be over the next 12 months. [14093]

Justine Greening: Within the consumer prices index, the annual rate of food inflation was 3.9% in August 2010.

In its June 2010 forecast, the Office for Budget Responsibility did not publish a separate forecast for the rate of food price inflation.

Gift Aid

James Wharton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost of processing a gift aid claim on donations made to charities was in the latest period for which figures are available. [14633]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not distinguish the costs of administering gift aid from other activities in relation to charities and charitable giving.

An estimate of £5 per claim processed was included in the impact assessment on "Extending Charity Tax Reliefs to Certain Organisations in Europe" published on 24 March 2010. This figure is the minimum cost as it reflects only certain costs beyond the payroll cost of staff directly engaged in the repayment process.

HMRC currently estimates that the average cost is around £8 per claim.

Green Investment Bank

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which official in his Department has lead policy responsibility for proposals relating to the establishment of a Green Investment Bank. [13674]

Justine Greening: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has lead policy responsibility for proposals relating to the Green Investment Bank, working closely with other Departments.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 29 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Noman. [15190]

Mr Gauke: The chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs replied to the right hon. Member on 14 September 2010.

Tax Allowances: Married People

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals to introduce transferable tax allowances for married couples. [14886]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain) on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W.

VAT: Crown Dependencies

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to amend the UK's Act of accession to the European communities to remove Crown Dependencies' eligibility for low value consignment relief. [14911]

Mr Gauke: The Government have no plans to bring forward amendments to the UK's treaty of accession to the EU in the manner the hon. Member suggests. However, as I told the House in my written answer to a question from my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 661W, the Government are actively reviewing the operation of low value consignment relief.

VAT: Hearing Aids

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to zero rate privately-purchased hearing aids for value added tax. [14601]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: It is not possible to introduce a zero rate of VAT for privately-purchased hearing aids. Agreements with our EU partners prevent us from extending the scope of existing zero rates, or introducing new ones.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households receive the 50-plus element of working tax credit; and what the average payment of that element was in the latest period for which figures are available. [15445]

Mr Gauke: Approximately 15,000 families were benefiting from the 50-plus element at April 2010. On average these families were entitled to receive £4,720.

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families receive the baby element of child tax credit; and what the average payment of that element was in the latest period for which figures are available. [15446]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families benefiting from the baby element of child tax credits, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics April 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-apr2010.pdf

The average payment of the baby element is not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with President Karzai on membership of the Afghan government's High Level Peace Council. [14604]

Mr Hague: The appointment of members of the High Level Peace Council is a matter for the Afghan authorities and I have not discussed individual members with President Karzai. We welcome the recent announcement by President Karzai to set up a High Level Peace Council. We look forward to the announcement of the list of members in due course. The formation of the High Peace Council is a significant step to expedite the peace and reconciliation process, building on the successes of the Consultative Peace Jirga and Kabul Conference and rooted in the Afghan people's desire for peace. The UK continues to support the political process which is needed to bring the conflict in Afghanistan to an end.

Burma: Elections

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether officials in the British Embassy in Burma have had recent discussions with leaders of ethnic minorities in Burma on the forthcoming elections. [15426]

Mr Lidington: Our embassy in Rangoon regularly meets representatives of ethnic minority groups both inside Burma and on the Thai-Burma border. This includes recent meetings with the Karen, Shan, Rohingya, Mon and Chin where forthcoming elections were discussed. Such groups have faced difficulties with the process of registration, membership listing, candidate nominations, severe funding restrictions and in some cases harassment from the regime. Foreign and Commonwealth officials also recently met a delegation of ethnic representatives in London to discuss forthcoming elections and further meetings with ethnic leaders are scheduled. Our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises his concern with the regime that forthcoming elections will not be free and fair while ethnic and other opposition parties continue to be excluded or face tough restrictions.

Dalai Lama

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates the Dalai Lama last visited the UK; for how long he stayed; where he visited; what the purpose of the visit was; in what manner and by whom he was received by the Government; what advice the Government gave his representatives in the UK on the visit; and if he will make a statement. [15402]

Alistair Burt: His Holiness, the Dalai Lama last officially visited the UK, in May 2008. He was invited by Harry Cohen MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, the Network of Buddhist Organisations in the UK, Oxford Blackfriars Hall and the Oxford Buddhist Society, which organised his programme of visits in London, Nottingham and Oxford.

The Dalai Lama met the previous Prime Minister, on May 23, at Lambeth Palace in his capacity as a religious leader. They discussed interfaith issues.

European Parliament

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the adoption of a single seat for the European Parliament. [15721]

Mr Lidington: The Government's policy is to press for the European Parliament to have only one seat, in Brussels.

The Government oppose the dual sitting of the European Parliament as it is a huge waste of time and resources. Estimates suggest that having two seats for the European Parliament currently costs the British taxpayer £28 million per year and also means that 20,000 extra tonnes of carbon dioxide are emitted each year in the process.

Human Trafficking

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to provide assistance to UK citizens who have been trafficked overseas and are prosecuted overseas for offences committed under duress. [14893]

Mr Lidington: If a British national is prosecuted overseas for a crime that may have been committed under duress, we would expect their lawyer to address this at the trial. If, however, these points are not duly considered during the judicial process, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office—in consultation with the law—would consider taking up the British national's concerns with the relevant authorities. As a last resort, where there is prima facie evidence of a denial or miscarriage of justice and where we have made representations that have failed to secure a remedy, we can consider supporting an application for clemency.

Narco-terrorism: Mexico

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has given to the government of Mexico to counter narco-terrorism. [14866]

Mr Bellingham: I will reply to my hon. Friend shortly.

Substantive answer from Henry Bellingham to Mark Pritchard:

I refer my hon. Friend to the response given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Home Department (Nick Herbert), on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 964W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all pre-2003 Child Support Agency cases will be transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission by 2011. [13941]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all pre-2003 Child Support Agency cases will be transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission by 2011. [13941]

The problems encountered by the Child Support Agency following the launch of the Reforms in 2003 resulted in a decision to defer the bulk transfer of cases from the old (launched in 1993) scheme, to the current (launched in 2003) child support scheme. In the meantime, cases were only migrated from the old computer system to the new computer system where they had a link with a case on the new system that made this necessary.

This decision was kept under review and in February 2006 the Government asked Sir David Henshaw to review the entire system of child maintenance. His subsequent report led to the Government's White paper and to the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, which makes provision for a new system of child maintenance known as the "future scheme".

The Commission continues to develop plans for a future scheme that is intended to replace both the existing schemes. As with all government departments, the Commission is undertaking a review of its plans as part of the current spending review and in line the new government's priorities.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [14620]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government Office Region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for East of England are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income for the East of England. Before Housing Costs and After Housing Costs

	Before Housing Costs		*After Housing Costs*	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.2	15	0.3	23
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2	15	0.3	23
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2	16	0.3	24
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	15	0.3	25
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.2	15	0.3	26
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	16	0.3	26

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Children: Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of children *(a)* in absolute poverty, *(b)* in relative poverty and *(c)* with combined material deprivation and low income in Washington and Sunderland West constituency. [14578]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for the north-east of England are set out in the following table.

Number and percentage of children living in (a) absolute poverty, (b) relative poverty and (c) combined material deprivation and low income in the North East of England, before housing costs

Period	*Number of children (million/percentage)*		
	Relative poverty	*Absolute poverty*	*Combined material deprivation and low income*
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.1 (28%)	0.1 (14%)	0.1 (20%)

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
7. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
8. Each of the measures is defined as:
Relative poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.
Absolute poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms.
Low income and material deprivation: percentage of children living in households in material deprivation and with less than 70% of contemporary median household income.
Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13932]

Chris Grayling: The following information details the volumes of payments to suppliers made in August 2010 by the Department. DWP payment terms are calculated from the receipt of a valid invoice rather than the date of invoice.

Separate figures detailing payments at over 60 days and over 90 days are not collected and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

DWP

Number

August 2010 information (latest available figures)	*Payments made within 30-day timeframe*	*Payments made beyond 30-day timeframe*
Department for Work and Pensions	58,763	289

DWP agencies

Number

August 2010 information (latest available figures)	*Payments made within 30-day timeframe*	*Payments made beyond 30-day timeframe*
The Pensions, Disability and Carers Service	32,750	36
Corporate and other[1]	107,74	170
Jobcentre Plus	15,239	83

[1] Includes housing benefit, Welfare and Wellbeing Group, Employment Group and European Social Fund.

DWP non-departmental public bodies (NDPB's)

Number

August 2010 information (latest available figures)	*Payments made within 30-day timeframe*	*Payments made beyond 30-day timeframe*
The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	2,171	1
Independent Living Fund	77	2
National Employment Savings Trust	145	22
Pensions Ombudsman/Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	28	0
Pension Protection Fund	185	64
The Pensions Advisory Service	66	1
The Pensions Regulator	273	22
Health and Safety Executive	1,201	11
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	0	0
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	0	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	0	0
Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC)[1]	—	—
Equality 2025[1]	—	—

[1] All invoices relating to SSAC and Equality 2025 are included within the DWP return.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13302]

Chris Grayling: Information about how many external training courses were attended by DWP staff and associated costs is not held centrally, as a consequence the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Funding for learning and development opportunities is held and managed by individual business areas.

Employment: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of jobs supported by the Future Jobs Fund in the area most closely corresponding to East Lothian constituency for which figures are available. [13540]

Chris Grayling: The Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 11 August 2010 and are available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=ypg

Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which covers the period from October 2009 to May 2010. They show that there were 4,460 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in Scotland. The information requested for East Lothian is not available.

Future Jobs Fund: Washington Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in the *(a)* public, *(b)* private and *(c)* third sector have been created by funding from the Future Jobs Fund in Washington and Sunderland West constituency in the last 12 months. [14360]

Chris Grayling: The Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 11 August 2010 and are available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=ypg

Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which covers the period from October 2009 to May 2010. They show that there were 2,310 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in the North East to the end of May 2010. The information requested for Washington and Sunderland West is not available.

Health and Safety Executive

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the Health and Safety Executive. [13708]

Chris Grayling: Our priority is to ensure that health and safety is regulated fairly and proportionately. That is vital for a strong economy, and for a healthy and productive work force.

This Department's planning proposals, including in respect of the Health and Safety Executive, will be developed as part of this autumn's spending review.

Housing Benefit: Camden

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in the London borough of Camden have been unemployed for more than a year and are claiming housing benefit. [11936]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claimants of housing benefit in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow North West (i) are claimants of jobseeker's allowance and (ii) have claimed jobseeker's allowance for 12 months or more. [15111]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

At present, the management information needed to estimate durations on housing benefit has not been sufficiently quality assured; and, while information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, which includes income- based jobseeker's allowance, the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is not available.

Housing benefit case load and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/index.php?page=hbctb_arc

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants were unable to undergo medical examinations in the Aberdeen trial area because they were unfit to travel. [13499]

Chris Grayling: Neither the Department nor its supplier, Atos Healthcare, collate information on the number of customers called to assessment that are unfit to travel.

However, for the period June 2010 to August 2010, one incapacity benefit customer, who would normally have been examined at Aberdeen Medical Examination Centre, was assessed by home visit. A home visit can be arranged by Atos Healthcare when a customer has difficulty travelling to the examination centre, e.g. due to the availability of public transport or fitness to travel.

Incapacity Benefit: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wimbledon constituency claimed incapacity benefit in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010. [12940]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the table—please note that no new claims to incapacity benefit were accepted after 27 October 2008 as it was replaced by employment and support allowance from this date. There are not yet data available for 2010—November 2009 are the most recent data available.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Wimbledon parliamentary constituency

	Total number of claimants
February 2005	1,730
February 2007	1,710
November 2009	1,390

Notes:

1. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2005.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Industrial Diseases: Asbestos

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who have been paid compensation by *(a)* insurance companies and *(b)* employers for diseases caused by exposure to asbestos in the workplace; and if he will make a statement. [14586]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff are employed on fixed-term contracts; how many of them have been granted contract extensions since 22 June 2010; and what the estimated cost is of extending these contracts. [13843]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff are employed on fixed-term contracts, how many of them have been granted contract extensions since 22 June 2010, and what the estimated cost is of extending these contracts. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The latest externally published staffing numbers are for March 2010. This data shows that, at that date, Jobcentre Plus employed 13,624 full-time equivalents on fixed-term contracts.

The latest internal management information shows that the fixed-term contracts for 1,211 full-time equivalents were due to end between 22 June 2010 and the end of September 2010. Of these 593 had their contracts extended.

The majority of these extensions are for 3 months. The estimated cost of these extensions is approximately £3m. However, the decision to extend these contracts was made due to higher staff attrition rates, so with less staff in the organisation these extensions were contained within original budget.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Gateshead constituency. [13386]

Chris Grayling: In June 2010 there were 95 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Gateshead.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by 2013 in Wolverhampton North East constituency. [13367]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Means-tested Benefits

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of *(a)* retaining each universal benefit at the average rate and *(b)* adopting means testing for all benefits at the average rate in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each of the next four years. [14396]

Maria Miller: The information that is available is provided in the following table. This sets out, for 2010-11 and each of the next four years, the forecast expenditure on the main DWP payments that have no means test and do not require national insurance contributions to have been made. The estimated cost of adopting means testing for all benefits is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Benefit expenditure forecasts, 2010-11 to 2014-15

£ million, nominal terms

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Disability living allowance	12,113	12,704	13,305	13,530	13,444
Attendance allowance	5,330	5,539	5,759	5,962	6,172
Carer's allowance	1,645	1,773	1,885	1,995	2,086
Christmas bonus	156	156	158	159	161
Winter fuel payments	2,734	2,134	2,117	2,099	2,084
Over 75 TV licence	569	591	615	641	681

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest million.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures are for Great Britain, but also include a small amount of expenditure for claimants who have moved abroad.

Source:

June 2010 Budget forecast

Security

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British standards apply to the installation and maintenance of automatic security gates; and what training is required of people installing them. [13426]

Chris Grayling: The British Standards Institution, which is the source of British Standards, has published six standards which are directly applicable:

BS EN 12635 'Industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates—Installation and use'

BS EN 12445 'Industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates—Safety in use of power operated doors—Test methods'

BS EN 12453 'Industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates—Safety in use of power operated doors—Requirements'

BS EN 12604 'Industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates—Mechanical aspects—Requirements'

BS EN 13241-1:2003 'Industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates—Product standard. Part 1: products without fire resistance or smoke control characteristics'

BS EN 12978 'Industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates-Safety devices for power operated doors and gates—Requirements and test methods'.

There is no specific statutory training required for individuals installing automatic security gates. However, the Health and Safety at Work Act requires employers and the self-employed to conduct their undertakings in such a way that persons not in their employment are not exposed to risks. This means that the installers must have the necessary competence to produce a safe final product and, to do this, they will require an understanding of the relevant standards.

British standards are available as priced publications from the BSI website:

http://www.bsigroup.com/

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Health and Safety Executive monitors automatic security gates in the workplace for *(a)* compliance with relevant British Standards and *(b)* safety of operation. [13427]

Chris Grayling: Organisations which install, use or maintain this type of gate have duties under health and safety law. The main way in which HSE monitors compliance with the law is through proactive visits to workplaces by inspectors and other front-line staff. If an inspector has concerns about the safety of electrically powered gates, then they will enquire into the maintenance arrangements and seek assurance or demonstration that the safety devices are in working order. If inquiries are made of installers of such gates, then their knowledge of the relevant British Standards would be examined. Enforcement action, including Prohibition and Improvement Notices, may be taken where significant deficiencies are found, even if an injury has not occurred.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries have been caused by the operation of automatic security gates in the workplace in each of the last five years. [13428]

Chris Grayling: HSE's best estimate is in the following table.

Severity	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Fatal	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3
Major injury	—	3	—	2	3	3	—	11
Over 3 day injury	1	1	—	1	—	5	—	8
Total	1	4	—	4	3	8	2	22

HSE's best estimate has been created following the interrogation of HSE databases using the terms 'electric gates', 'powered gate' and 'power gate operator'. This approach is used because those notifying the incident do not always use the consistent terms in describing the events that are reported. As a consequence there is no easy way ensuring that all records of a similar nature are accounted for. Similarly, it is not always possible to distinguish workplaces or other premises.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of each benefit type received a benefit sanction in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [13256]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available in the format requested. Information is not available on sanctions in respect of people claiming income support, incapacity benefit, and employment and support allowance. The available information for jobseeker's allowance is in the table.

Data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Number of individuals claiming jobseeker's allowance, where a sanction has been applied in Great Britain, April 2009 to March 2010

	Number
All sanctions	379,030
Varied length sanctions	51,510
Fixed length sanctions	68,240
Entitlement decisions	259,280

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. The number of sanctions applied is the number of individuals where there has been an adverse decision.
3. Varied length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for anything up to 26 weeks.
4. Fixed length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for either two, four or 26 weeks.
5. Entitlement decisions are where the JSA claimant has their entitlement to JSA ended.
6. Only the most recent sanction for each individual is shown.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants of each benefit type received a benefit sanction of more than one week's benefit entitlement in 2009-10. [13259]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with those responsible for making medical assessments of eligibility for employment and support allowance for people with *(a)* Asperger's syndrome and *(b)* other parts of the autism spectrum on their training in making such assessments; what medical experience such assessors are required to have; and if he will make a statement. [14585]

Chris Grayling: Officials have discussed the training of healthcare professionals in relation to Autistic Spectrum Disorders with Atos Healthcare to ensure that they are able to conduct assessments for employment and support allowance to the required standards.

All Atos healthcare professionals conducting Employment and Support Allowance assessments receive training regarding Autistic Spectrum Disorders. The training is tailored to individual need but includes provision of information about Autistic Spectrum Disorders contained in evidence-based protocols for mental health conditions, a face to face "learning set" on Asperger's syndrome, a distance learning module on Asperger's syndrome and a DVD on autism.

Healthcare professionals are required to have a minimum of three years post-registration experience and this should include broad based medical practice in roles that have clear relevance to a career in disability assessment medicine. In individual cases, solely at the discretion of the DWP Chief Medical Adviser, the requirement that a healthcare professional must have a minimum of three years post-registration experience may be waived.

Child Benefit

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many counterclaims have been made for child benefit in each of the last five years; and how many such claims have led to the other parent's child benefit being stopped. [13451]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not keep statistical information on how many child benefit claims are perceived to be malicious nor does the Department record how many competing claims resulted in an existing claimant's child benefit being stopped.

HMRC received around 140,000 claims to child benefit during 2009-10, where another adult was already claiming for the same child or children, and have received around 46,500 such claims in 2010-11 up to and including August 2010. Reliable information is not available for 2008-09 and earlier years.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Improvement Districts

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many business improvement districts there were *(a)* in each of the last three years and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. [14987]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold information on numbers of business improvement districts (BIDs) on an annual basis.

The total number of BIDs as of September 2010 is 92, 15 of which are in their second term.

Council Housing: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the reform of council housing finance. [14969]

Andrew Stunell: We are reviewing the unfair Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system as part of the Spending Review.

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of homes in England incorrectly banded in the 2005 council tax revaluation. [15063]

Robert Neill: No council tax revaluation took place in 2005.

Departmental Cleaning Services

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on cleaning in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10. [15052]

Robert Neill: Communities and Local Government have spent the following on cleaning in its headquarters buildings in London during: *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10.

	Cost (£)
2006-07	594,155
2007-08	655,534
2008-09	370,386
2009-10	423,553

In July 2004, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister signed a contract with Mitie for contract cleaning services in Ashdown House and Eland House, London Victoria. In May 2010, the Department gave due notice to reduce the level of contract cleaning in its remaining headquarters building, Eland House, achieving ongoing savings of circa £150,000 per year.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what declarations of *(a)* interests, *(b)* gifts and *(c)* hospitality were made by special advisers in his Department in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [15059]

Robert Neill: In the periods 2007-08 and 2008-09 no declarations of interests, gifts or hospitality were made by special advisers in Communities and Local Government and in 2009-10 there was one declaration of a gift made by special adviser.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [15144]

Robert Neill: Communities and Local Government spent £80 on the provision of hospitality at a ministerial reception for housebuilders in July 2010.

Domestic Violence: Supporting People Programme

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many support units for *(a)* women and *(b)* men at risk of domestic violence were provided or part-funded by Supporting People in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [15048]

Andrew Stunell: There were 10,549 Domestic Violence House-Hold Units funded by the Supporting People programme as at 31 March 2009. Information is not broken down between male and female. Data for 2009-10 are not yet available.

Information returned by the providers of Supporting People services show that in 2009-10, 26,361 clients entering services were defined as 'people at risk of domestic violence'. 25,927 of these were female (98%), 434 were male (2%).

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have been granted Supporting People funding to support *(a)* women and *(b)* men at risk of domestic violence in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [15049]

Andrew Stunell: The Supporting People programme grant, which enables local authorities to provide housing-related support services including domestic violence provision, is allocated to the 152 top tier authorities. However, CLG do not specify what proportion of the Supporting People budget should be allocated to individual client groups or services. The provision of Supporting People housing-related support services, including domestic violence provision for men and women, is a matter for local authorities to determine based on local needs and priorities.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent submissions he has received on the future use of the *(a)* estate and *(b)* IT system constructed as part of the FiReControl project. [15023]

Robert Neill: One recent submission from EADS has been received specifically on the future of the estate and IT system constructed as part of the FiReControl project.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had on the future use of the (i) estate and (ii) IT system constructed as part of the FiReControl project since 25 May 2010; and which organisations (A) requested and (B) attended such meetings. [15024]

Robert Neill: The Government are becoming increasingly concerned at the inability of EADS to deliver on its contractual obligations to a sufficient quality and time and we have made this clear to them in no uncertain terms.

Since 25 May 2010 my officials have had one meeting with EADS, specifically at their request, to hear their alternative ideas for the future use of the estate and IT system constructed as part of the FiReControl project. I have met with EADS recently, at their request, when they offered to deliver a system with reduced functionality by June 2011. We have made it clear that none of these plans is under consideration and EADS must deliver the contracted solution by the contracted date(s).

The Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Fire Services: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of his Department's in-year budgetary savings for 2010-11 will come from the central Government grant to fire and rescue authorities in England; and if he will make a statement. [15021]

Robert Neill: There has been no reduction to the formula grant allocated to local authorities for 2010-11, which includes grant payments to fire and rescue authorities in England.

Fires: Electric Cables

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires in private rented properties *(a)* in North Swindon constituency and *(b)* England and Wales were attributed to faults in electrical installations and products in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [14793]

Robert Neill: Fire incident data are available up to the end of March 2010, but only to Fire and Rescue Authority level, and dwelling tenure details are not collected under the Fire and Rescue Incident Recording System. Therefore the data in the table are for all dwellings, and for Wiltshire rather than for North Swindon.

Fires in dwellings attributable to faults in electrical installations and products, April 2009 to March 2010

	Number
Wiltshire	65
England	7,147
England and Wales	7,563

Source:
Fire and Rescue incident records, CLG

Fruit

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on fruit supplied to Ministerial offices in his Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [15053]

Robert Neill: None.

Housing Improvements: Disability

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the disabled facilities grant; if he will retain current funding levels for the grant; and if he will make a statement. [13918]

Andrew Stunell: The disabled facilities grant assists disabled people to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their own homes. Any statements concerning levels of funding in respect of the disabled facilities grant programme will be made following the spending review settlement.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how soon he expects local enterprise partnerships to be established once they have been approved by his Department. [15275]

Robert Neill: The closing date for submitting local enterprise partnership proposals to the Government was 6 September 2010. I am pleased to confirm that Government received 57 proposals from groups of councils and businesses from across the country. A joint press notice is available on the CLG and BIS websites.

The Government are keen to see partnerships remain proactive and maintain momentum. Over the coming weeks Ministers will consider the proposals in detail, looking at how they will support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships ahead of the publication of the White Paper on sub-national economic growth and the introduction of the Localism Bill.

Local Government Finance: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he has made an assessment of the impact on frontline services in Wigan of the spending reductions he announced in his written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package; [14963]

(2) what representations he has from individuals and organisations in Wigan on the effect of the spending reductions he announced in the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, on forthcoming services in Wigan. [14964]

Robert Neill: We asked local authorities to make a contribution of £1.166 billion to the £6.2 billion of cross-Government savings in 2010-11 to enable the Government to take immediate action to start to tackle the fiscal deficit. We have taken action to provide the flexibility needed to allow local authorities the freedom to make their own decisions about where savings are found without impacting on essential frontline services. The Government lifted restrictions on how local authorities spend their funding on grants totalling £1.2 billion. We also made no changes to the amount of formula grant which each council received this year. This is the main funding paid to local authorities with no strings on how they use that money. The impact on their area of the reductions in grants this year will be for local authorities to decide. We have received no representations from individuals and organisations in Wigan on the effect of these changes on services.

Non-domestic Rates

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average national non-domestic rate bill was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last three years. [14984]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table containing details of the average national non-domestic rates bill in each *(a)* Government office region and *(b)* local authority area in England in each of the last three years.

The data, which refer to the local lists only, are taken from NNDR returns submitted by billing authorities in England.

Average non-domestic rates are calculated by dividing the net rate yield, after deductions for reliefs, from local authorities' lists by the number of hereditaments on local lists as at 31 December of the previous year. Comparisons across years should be treated with caution as figures will reflect changes in the number and type of hereditaments as well as changes to rateable values and multipliers.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority collected in national non-domestic rate revenue in each of the last three years. [14985]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table containing details of the amount of national non-domestic rates collected in each local authority area in England in each of the last three years.

The data are taken from the national non-domestic rates (NNDR3) returns submitted annually by all local billing authorities in England.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many national non-domestic rate hereditaments there were in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last three years. [14986]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table containing details of the number of national non-domestic rate hereditaments in each *(a)* Government office region and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last three years.

The data are as at 31 December and are taken from the national non-domestic rates (NNDR1) returns submitted annually by all local billing authorities in England.

Planning Inspectorate: Handbooks

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Planning Inspectors' Handbook. [15080]

Robert Neill: A copy of the Planning Inspectors' Handbook is available in the Library of the House. The Government have announced and will continue to announce significant changes to planning policy and practice. On this basis, a decision has been taken to cancel and archive the Inspectors' Handbook and to ensure that all new advice to Planning Inspectors is provided through the PINS or CLG websites.

Referendums

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to give residents the power to instigate binding local referendums on any local issue. [14835]

Robert Neill: As we made clear in our coalition programme for government, published on 20 May, we will give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue. We intend to include the necessary statutory provisions as part of the Localism Bill which was announced in the Queen's Speech for this parliamentary Session.

Smith Institute

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what strategic consultancy work was undertaken by the Smith Institute for his Department in 2009-10; what the cost was; and which Minister authorised the contract. [15062]

Robert Neill: The Smith Institute produced the monograph 'the thames gateway - where next?' in 2009-10. Communities and Local Government contributed £13,374.94 towards its cost and allied research. The then Minister for the Thames Gateway (Mr Shahid Malik) approved the contribution.

Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 5 August 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract and project brief for work undertaken for Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation by Connect Public Affairs; and how much was spent on the contract. [15054]

Robert Neill: I have arranged for a copy of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation's contract with Connect Public Affairs to be placed in the Library of the House. In the last 12 months, the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation has paid £45,102 in professional fees to Connect Public Affairs to provide political monitoring and support their communications, stakeholder engagement and events strategies.

Waste Management: Departmental Responsibilities

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibilities his Department has for the *(a)* development and *(b)* implementation of (i) policy and (ii) programmes relating to (A) waste and (B) recycling; which of these responsibilities are shared with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure the effective co-ordination of such policies and programmes between the two Departments. [15156]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government works closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on cross-cutting issues, including helping rural communities, protecting our countryside and natural heritage, tackling flooding, promoting sustainable building and waste and recycling policy.

We ensure effective working through a number of mechanisms, including representation on relevant departmental programme boards, and the close working of Ministers.

This close working is illustrated by the press releases of 7 June 2010 and 19 July 2010 on the new Government's policy of scrapping bin taxes, issued jointly from the two respective Secretaries of State.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/newsroom/1607787

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1643149

West Northamptonshire Development Corporate: Public Relations

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 5 August 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract and project brief for work undertaken for West Northamptonshire Development Corporation by Chelgate public affairs; and how much was spent on the contract. [15027]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) appointed Chelgate Ltd in November 2008 to deliver consultancy support as set out in the project brief, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House. The contract was terminated in May 2010. The total cost of the work under the contract was £133,803.

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation: Public Relations

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation had a contract with Chelgate public affairs. [15058]

Andrew Stunell: West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) appointed Chelgate Ltd in November 2008 to deliver consultancy support as set out in the project brief, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House. The contract was terminated in May 2010. The total cost of the work under the contract was £133,803.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Supply

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make a statement on his Department's contribution to the Strategic Defence and Security Review with regard to the energy security of the UK. [14352]

Charles Hendry: The Government will publish its findings from the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) later in the autumn, in coordination with the outcome of the Spending Review. Energy Security is being considered as part of the review.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what requirements there are on *(a)* district and *(b)* county councils to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and if he will make a statement. [14594]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* There are no requirements for local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are however three reporting requirements for local authorities.

National Indicators 185 and 186 measure percentage reductions in emissions from local authorities' own estate and operations and emissions from local authority areas respectively. They, and all national indicators, are currently under review by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) places a duty on those local authorities with housing responsibilities to produce, publish and submit to the Secretary of State a report which sets out energy conservation measures that the authority considers practical, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area and to report progress made in implementing the measures.

From April 2010, the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme requires those qualifying local authorities to report their own estate emissions, and will incentivise them to improve their performance relative to other participants.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Business

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to introduce mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by businesses; and if he will make a statement. [14438]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The Climate Change Act 2008 requires that, by 6 April 2012, the Secretary of State either introduces regulations for mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases by companies or explains to Parliament why she has decided not to regulate.

Once the Government have considered the contribution that reporting makes to the UK meeting its climate change objectives, we will decide whether to introduce regulations.

Power Stations: Offshore Industry

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* planning regulations, *(b)* planning guidance and *(c)* other regulations there are on the location of power stations required to connect offshore energy to the national grid. [15083]

Charles Hendry: There is no specific guidance for the siting of onshore substations to deliver offshore renewable energy into the electricity network. But any proposal will need to be justified in a planning process in terms of acceptability from an environmental and planning perspective.

Together with Ofgem, we are currently consulting on the new competitive licensing regime to connect offshore windfarms to the onshore grid. This consultation seeks views on whether any further action is required to ensure a coordinated approach to the onshore and offshore grid within the regime. The consultation closes on 29 September 2010.

Renewable Energy: Electric Cables

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's plans are to support the installation of high voltage direct current cabling and infrastructure for the distribution of offshore and onshore renewable electricity generation. [15088]

Charles Hendry: We expect offshore windfarm developers and onshore transmission owners to select the most cost-effective technology for their particular projects, which could include HVDC cables. DECC is committed to ensuring delivery of new network infrastructure at reasonable cost to consumers that we need to meet our energy and climate change goals. As the energy regulator, Ofgem assesses options proposed by industry for new network infrastructure. Ofgem make their decisions on funding new investments based on the impacts on cost to consumers and the need to deliver new infrastructure to meet energy and climate goals.

Together with Ofgem, we are currently consulting on the new competitive licensing regime to connect offshore windfarms to the onshore grid. This consultation seeks views on whether any further action is required to ensure a coordinated approach to the onshore and offshore grid within the regime. The consultation closes on 29 September 2010.

Wind Power

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from businesses on the financial situation of the offshore wind industry. [13965]

Charles Hendry: I am working closely with the offshore wind industry and receive representations on a range of issues, including finance. The next meeting of the Offshore Wind Developers Forum, where such issues will be discussed, will take place on 28 October 2010.

In addition, since August my officials have been conducting a series of one-to-one meetings with developers, as part of a proactive approach to stakeholder engagement.

There has been a strongly favourable response from industry parties, including offshore wind developers, to our decision to improve grid access arrangements for new generation by introducing an enduring 'Connect and Manage' regime.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage foreign investment in the UK's offshore wind industry. [13967]

Charles Hendry: Offshore wind energy will make a key contribution to achieving our renewables targets. We will put in place a robust delivery plan which will take into account market and investor views. We are committed to comprehensive support for renewable electricity, through the establishment of a full system of feed-in tariffs—as well as the maintenance of banded renewables obligation certificates, with the aim of ensuring the most straightforward regime for investors. The Offshore Wind Developers Forum, which I co-chair, includes both domestic and international developers and has been tasked to ensure the viability and deliverability of offshore wind in the UK through existing and future rounds of development, and to maximise the economic opportunities available for UK-based business. In addition, Offshore grids are a significant opportunity for foreign investment. Offshore transmission operators (OFTOs) will be appointed through competitive tenders to build and maintain transmission networks in UK waters, with an expected £15 billion of investment required to 2020. We have already announced the appointment of three OFTOs to manage £700 million of offshore grid assets, one of which is an overseas investor.

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to increase the amount of offshore wind energy produced nationally. [13969]

Charles Hendry: We are committed to increasing significantly the amount of energy which is generated from renewable sources for reasons of energy security and to mitigate climate change. We are fortunate in having an abundant wind resource in the UK and are advancing the deployment of offshore wind energy to meet renewables and low carbon targets. We will put in place a robust delivery plan. We are aiming to publish more details in spring 2011. We are discussing the development of a North Seas grid with other North European countries which would potentially enhance our energy security.

Wind Power: Noise

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what process his Department used to select Hayes McKenzie to oversee the investigation into the application of planning authorities of the ETSU R 97 method for the assessment and rating of noise from wind farms. [15392]

Charles Hendry: DECC selected Hayes McKenzie through standard Government procurement processes. We invited a number of expert organisations to bid for the contract, and assessed the bids received against standard procurement criteria. The Hayes McKenzie bid scored most highly against those criteria.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit the sale of alcohol below cost price. [14921]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 September 2010]*: The Government are committed to banning the sale of alcohol below cost price. We are considering all options and plan to introduce this measure at the earliest opportunity without unduly impacting on industry or responsible drinkers.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has *(a)* taken since July 2010 and *(b)* plans to take during the next three months to combat anti-Semitism; and if she will make a statement. [14260]

James Brokenshire: The Department for Communities and Local Government have the policy lead in tackling anti-Semitism.

A cross-government working group to tackle anti-Semitism, which the Home Office is part of, was set up to take forward the Government's response to anti-Semitism. The working group meets quarterly and last met in July 2010.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of Gateshead borough *(a)* are subject to antisocial behaviour orders and *(b)* have breached an antisocial behaviour order in the last 12 months. [13795]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. A further breakdown could only be ascertained by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hyndburn

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to residents of Hyndburn in each year since 2002. [13988]

James Brokenshire: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of ASBOs issued are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. A further breakdown could only be ascertained by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Antisocial Behaviour: Public Opinion

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the findings of the July 2010 British Crime Survey in respect of public perceptions of levels of antisocial behaviour. [14049]

Mrs May: The 2009-10 British Crime Survey (BCS) shows that around one in seven adults in England and Wales (14%) perceive their local area suffers from high levels of antisocial behaviour (ASB).

The survey findings also reveal large variations between local areas with, for example, over one in four people in the most deprived areas perceiving a high level of ASB, nearly five times the level in the most affluent areas.

Previous findings have shown that around three-quarters of people who experienced ASB in their local area did not complain to any agency or individual. Incidents of drunk or rowdy behaviour were least likely to be reported (14%) whereas 49% of those who experienced noisy or nuisance neighbours complained to someone (2007-08 BCS).

Levels of antisocial behaviour remain too high which is why we are reviewing all of the tools and powers that are available to police forces and other agencies to deal with ASB, including the antisocial behaviour order, to ensure those tackling it have an effective toolkit that is quick, practical and easy to use.

Asylum

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department provides assistance to asylum seekers with a professional or skilled background to retain their skills whilst awaiting determination of their claims; and if she will make a statement. [14901]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not provide assistance to asylum seekers with a professional or skilled background to retain their skills while awaiting determination of their claims.

Asylum seekers are entitled to apply for permission to work if they have not received a decision on their initial claim after 12 months, providing the delay is not their fault. Following an amendment to the Immigration Rules, asylum seekers who apply for permission to work on the basis of such a delay are restricted to employment in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers there are from each country of origin whose cases *(a)* were pending at the inception of the legacy cases scheme and *(b)* are still awaiting processing under that scheme. [15134]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to accurately report on the initial or outstanding volume of asylum cases being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) by nationality. As reported in July 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 50% of the concluded cases were data errors and required no further or any administrative action. Therefore, any such report would be unable to accurately represent CRD cases by nationality.

The agency will be reporting on its current performance in clearing the backlog in the autumn. I am confident CRD are on track to clear the backlog of older asylum cases by summer 2011 or earlier.

Asylum: Pakistan

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women from Pakistan have applied for asylum in the UK in each year since 2000; and how many such applications were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused. [15286]

Damian Green: The accompanying table shows the number of asylum applications from female nationals of Pakistan and initial decisions broken down by grants of asylum, grants of exceptional leave to remain (ELR), humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) and refusals between 2001 and 2009 (figures for 2000 are not available). Figures only include initial decisions on asylum applications and exclude all subsequent decisions. Figures on initial decisions are shown by year of decision; initial decisions by year of application are not available.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletin which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Applications[1] received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions on applications, female asylum applicants only, nationals of Pakistan, 2001 to 2009

	Applications		*Initial decisions[2]*		
		Total initial decisions	*Grants of asylum*	*Granted ELR/HP/DL[3]*	*Total refusals*
2001	605	680	130	45	510
2002	635	620	95	15	510
2003	610	665	60	5	600
2004	640	700	50	25	625
2005	540	545	40	20	490
2006	440	395	40	15	345
2007	390	385	55	10	320
2008	430	325	45	10	265
2009[4]	405	395	50	5	335

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) replaced exceptional leave to remain (ELR) from 1 April 2003.

[4] Provisional figures.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an assessment of the human rights situation for women in Pakistan is made when determining asylum applications from such women. [15287]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's Country of Origin Information (COI) Service produces COI reports focusing on the main human rights issues in countries that generate the most asylum claims in the UK. Each country report has a specific section which covers issues affecting women, including Pakistan.

All asylum and Human Rights claims, including those from Pakistan, are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN refugee convention and the European convention on human rights (ECHR) against the background of the latest available country information.

Borders: Personal Records

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions changes have been made to the specifications for the contract relating to the e-Borders programme. [12843]

Damian Green: There were 58 changes to the specifications for the contract formally agreed between the parties, many of which dealt with relatively minor changes.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many consultants were employed by her Department on the e-Borders programme in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10; how many have been employed in 2010-11 to date; what the cost to the public purse has been in each such case; what the role of each consultancy was in respect of the programme; what assessment she has made of the (i) value for money of the use of consultants and (ii) contribution by consultants to the management of the programme; and whether she plans to retain the use of consultants in the next e-Borders procurement exercise. [12935]

Damian Green: The following table provides the numbers and costs of consultants and independent contractors employed by the e-Borders programme since 2006.

Consultancy

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Headcount	103	81	53	60	65
Costs (£)	10,046,869	9,601,330	10,651,890	11,810,027	2,984,450

[1] 3 months

Prior to contract award, the role of consultants was to manage and provide advice on the procurement process. Following contract award, consultants provided advice and support in a number of areas including business design, programme management, carrier and port liaison and testing activities.

(i) All work carried out by consultants was agreed in formal work packages which detailed the deliverables and activities required. Achievement of those deliverables was signed off by civil servants. Consideration of the value for money provided by consultants in carrying out these activities was an integral part of the process in agreeing each work package.

(ii) The e-Borders programme has been managed throughout by senior civil servants reporting ultimately to the senior responsible officer. Advice and guidance on specialist areas of expertise has been provided by consultants during this period to the senior management team and the e-Borders programme.

The current plan is to retain some consultants to advise on the next e-Borders procurement exercise, with consultancy expenditure in the year to March 2011 currently forecast to fall to £7 million.

The use of external consultants provides the UK Border Agency with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available.

The periods covered saw the programme move from procurement of the strategic solution and provision of the Semaphore pilot system to the more complex activity to assure the design and delivery of the strategic solution. The fall in consultant and contractor headcount during this time did not deliver an equivalent reduction in cost since there was an associated change in the mix and type of consultancy support provided, along with a need to use more hours from individual consultants because of the pressures on the programme and the requirement for their specialist knowledge.

Crime: Theft

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* theft and *(c)* robbery were detected in each of the last nine years; and in respect of how many such offences suspects were proceeded against in each such year. [15705]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is responsible for the police recorded crime statistics and data for the number of offences detected are given in the table.

However, it is not possible to track individual offences through to any conclusion at court and we therefore cannot provide information on the number of suspects proceeded against for these offences.

The collection of statistics on defendants proceeded against is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. However, data held by the Ministry of Justice are not directly comparable with the police recorded crime data shown in the table.

Number of offences detected by the police in England and Wales[1]

Period	*Burglary*	*Theft*[2]	*Robbery*
2001-02[3]	103,455	364,839	19,820
2002-03[4,5]	111,135	375,052	20,481
2003-04	103,842	354,201	19,298
2004-05	89,025	336,235	18,300
2005-06	88,092	354,152	18,015
2006-07	87,056	353,235	18,953
2007-08	77,031	332,888	17,111
2008-09	77,889	340,922	16,835
2009-10	68,633	305,810	15,391

[1] From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection numbers.

[2] Includes offences against vehicles and other thefts.

[3] Excludes British Transport Police.

[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[5] Includes the British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children referred to the National Referral Mechanism have been identified as trafficked and subsequently prosecuted for alleged criminal activity in which they have been involved as a result of being trafficked. [15123]

Damian Green: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has been consulted but does not hold records which could identify young offenders prosecuted for criminal activity committed as a direct consequence of their being trafficked.

Licensing Laws

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for temporary event notices there were in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [14981]

James Brokenshire: Data relating to the number of applications for temporary event notices (TENs) for each of the last three years are included in Tables 1-3. Copies of these tables will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Data for 2009-10 will be published on 29 September 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to reply to the letter of 30 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Waseem Shazad. [15179]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 13 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 20 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr M. I. Khan. [15181]

Damian Green: I replied to the right hon. Member on behalf of the Home Secretary on 8 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 30 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr R. Boadi. [15183]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 13 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 2 August 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms L. T. Sithole. [15185]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 8 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 2 August 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr R. K. Mzwimbi. [15186]

Damian Green: I replied to the right hon. Member on behalf of the Home Secretary on 8 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 2 August 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr C. Madzonayiko. [15187]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 13 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 2 August 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms S. Mpofo. [15188]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 13 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 2 August 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss B. A. Boasiako. [15189]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 8 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 15 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs H. Farhat. [15192]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 13 September 2010.

Off-licences

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences for alcohol off-sales there are per head of population in each constituency. [13732]

James Brokenshire: On 31 March 2009 there were 44,432 premises licences with off sales only alcohol licences (as reported by 93% of all licensing authorities).

A full breakdown by licensing authority per thousand population has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Data have been provided at local authority level as they are not available by constituency.

Source:

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing, England and Wales, April 2008 to March 2009

Passports: Biometrics

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has concluded commercial negotiations with suppliers of second generation biometric passport technology; and what level of savings she expects to accrue to the Exchequer as a result of the introduction of such technology. [13818]

Damian Green: It is estimated that Exchequer savings of approximately £134 million will be realised by halting the introduction of fingerprint biometric passports.

Commercial negotiations with suppliers of second generation biometric passport are nearing completion and the results of those negotiations will be announced in due course.

Schengen Agreement

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which EU proposals and initiatives other than those that seek to build upon the Schengen acquis have been presented to the Council pursuant to Title V of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; what the date of presentation to the Council was of each; in respect of which such proposals and initiatives the UK has notified the President of the Council of its wish to participate in adoption and application; and on what date the UK made each such notification; [15306]

(2) which EU proposals or initiatives that seek to build upon the Schengen acquis and would, if adopted, apply to the UK, are under consideration at EU level; what the three month period in which the UK could notify the Council that it does not wish to take part in that proposal or initiative is in the case of each; what notifications the UK has made; and on what date in each case; [15307]

(3) which EU acts building upon the Schengen acquis that apply to the UK have been adopted following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon; and which of those have not yet entered into force; [15308]

(4) which EU acts which do not constitute part of the Schengen acquis or build upon that acquis which apply to the UK were adopted on the basis of Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Community prior to the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon; which of those have not yet entered into force; and on what date the UK decided to *(a)* take part in the adoption and application of the proposal or *(b)* accept each such act; [15309]

(5) which EU acts and other legally binding EU provisions that constitute part of the Schengen acquis or which build upon that acquis apply to the UK and were adopted prior to the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon; and which of them have not yet entered into force; [15310]

(6) which EU acts, which do not build upon the Schengen acquis, which apply to the UK were adopted on the basis of Title V of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon; which of them have not yet entered into force; and on what date the UK decided to *(a)* take part in the adoption and application of the proposal and *(b)* accept each such act. [15391]

James Brokenshire: The tables placed in the House Libraries set out measures which have been presented to the European Council pursuant to Title IV on the Treaty establishing the European Community ("TEC pre-Lisbon measures") and Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ("TFEU post-Lisbon measures") attracting the UK opt-in. It also presents measures pursuant to those elements of the Schengen acquis in which the UK participates (the police and criminal justice elements) since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, when our ability to opt out of such measures was created. The UK was automatically bound by any measure tabled pursuant to those elements of the Schengen acquis in which we participate prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. There is only one measure currently under negotiation which builds on those elements of the Schengen acquis to which we are bound: a Council Regulation to establish an Agency for the purposes of managing existing IT systems in the area of Justice and Home Affairs. The UK has notified its wish to participate in that measure.

The table shows the main Title IV TEC measures for which information is held centrally and to which the opt-in applied. Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, more information has been held centrally.

There have been 25 measures to which the Title V TFEU opt-in has applied, to which the UK has opted-in to 15 and out of six and a further four published proposals where the Government will take a decision within the next three months. There have been four measures to which the Schengen opt-out applied (excluding the IT Agency). The UK is participating in all four.

Additional information on the dates when all these measures were presented, when the UK signalled its acceptance, when they were adopted and entered into force were not held centrally prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, all decisions to opt into or out of JHA measures are notified to Parliament at the time they are made. The first annual report will be presented to Parliament in December providing retrospective information on the UK's application of the opt-in Protocol from 1 December 2009 to 1 December 2010, a year since the Lisbon Treaty came into force.

Terrorism: Intercept Evidence

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department is making on determining ways to allow intercept evidence to be used in terrorism cases. [13920]

Mrs May: The Government are committed to seeking to find a practical way to allow the use of intercept evidence in court. An important first stage in doing so is ensuring that the previous analysis set out in the Privy Council review (Cm 7324), in 'Intercept as Evidence a report' (Cm 7760) and in the report by the Advisory Group of Privy Counsellors under cover of the right hon. Member's written ministerial statement of 25 March is assessed appropriately. We are currently doing so and will set out the way forward following that assessment.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 8166, tabled on 8 July 2010, on the Terrorism Act 2000 (section 44). [15290]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 913W.

CABINET OFFICE

European Year of Volunteering

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what activities have been funded by the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship in the UK. [14460]

Mr Hurd: Policy related to volunteering is a devolved issue. Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are developing separate plans for activity related to the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

The Office for Civil Society is currently developing a work programme for activity in England for submission to the European Commission. Further information on activity planned for the year in England will be made available in the autumn of 2010.

Industrial Disputes

Sajid Javid: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* collective and *(b)* individual trade disputes of each type in the (i) public and (ii) private sector were recorded in each class of economic activity under the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [14106]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many (a) collective and (b) individual trade-disputes of each type in the (i) public and (ii) private sector were recorded in each class of economic activity under the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification in each year since 1990; arid if he will make a-statement. (14106)

The Office for National Statistics compiles monthly labour disputes statistics for the UK. They exclude disputes which do not result in a stoppage of work and stoppages involving fewer than ten workers or lasting less than one day, unless the total number of working days lost in the dispute is 100 or more.

Figures on a public and private sector basis are only available from 1996 onwards. No breakdown is available by industry and by a public/private split. Figures are also only available for collective disputes.

Table 1 provides estimates of the number of stoppages for the public and private sector; in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2009. Table 2 provides figures on an industrial sector basis.

Table 1: Stoppages for the public and private sector

Number

	Public sector	*Private sector*
1996	102	142
1997	89	127
1998	78	88
1999	103	102
2000	113	99
2001	111	83
2002	61	85
2003	46	87
2004	68	62
2005	60	56
2006	87	71
2007	90	52
2008	75	69
2009	49	49

Table 2: Stoppages on an industrial sector basis

Number

(SIC 2003)	*Agriculture, forestry and fishing*	*Mining, quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply*	*Manufacturing*	*Construction*	*Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles*	*Transport, storage, information and communication*
1996	1	6	67	11	1	71
1997	0	1	53	11	2	68
1998	0	1	36	13	1	57
1999	0	0	37	20	4	91
2000	0	3	38	16	4	116
2001	0	3	32	9	7	94
2002	0	2	33	3	8	51
2003	0	1	43	4	2	45
2004	0	3	30	1	1	46
2005	0	2	19	3	1	42
2006	0	2	25	5	4	30
2007	1	0	22	4	0	55
2008	2	1	21	4	3	28
2009	1	1	6	7	0	33

Number

(SIC 2003)	*Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities*	*Public administration and defence*	*Education*	*Health and social work*	*Other community, social and personal service activities etc*
1996	6	21	40	9	11
1997	10	23	35	7	8
1998	6	10	19	6	17
1999	3	17	21	4	9
2000	1	7	18	10	13
2001	2	22	16	12	10
2002	4	20	16	14	11

Number

(SIC 2003)	*Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities*	*Public administration and defence*	*Education*	*Health and social work*	*Other community, social and personal service activities etc*
2003	2	10	15	7	9
2004	3	19	16	4	12
2005	9	13	22	1	5
2006	9	18	53	4	8
2007	6	20	21	12	11
2008	7	16	40	4	18
2009	6	5	30	0	9

Note: When a stoppage has been identified as covering more than one broad industry group, the number of stoppages will be included in all industry groupings that are appropriate.

Public Sector: Community Benefit Clauses

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Government is taking to encourage the use of community benefit clauses in the public sector. [13791]

Mr Hurd: Cabinet Office is developing work on the reform of the commissioning process which will look at the opportunity to encourage the building of social value into the purchasing of public services.

Social Enterprises: Tax Allowances

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department takes to encourage social enterprises to adopt a legal model which entitles them to tax relief. [13792]

Mr Hurd: The Government are committed to creating an environment in the UK which enables social enterprise to thrive. Social enterprises are businesses and therefore choose a legal form which best suits their business needs. It is not for government to encourage one legal form over another.

Social enterprises are often eligible for tax breaks. For example, many are charities and benefit from the associated tax benefit. However, charity tax benefits come with associated regulatory burden which some businesses, CICs and many other social enterprises choose to avoid. More generally, for non-charitable social enterprises, it is also important that Government avoid giving unfair advantage to one type of business over another and maintain a level playing field between different types of organisations trading in the market.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Boxing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the participation of members of the armed forces in boxing; and if he will make a statement. [14415]

Mr Robathan: Sport, including boxing, makes a vital contribution to fighting spirit, morale, personal development and, therefore, operational effectiveness of the armed forces. It has a wide role and contributes to qualities such as teamwork, leadership, courage and competitive spirit. As a consequence all service personnel are encouraged to participate in the full range of sporting activities.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any members of the armed forces have been injured and rendered unfit for duty *(a)* for up to one week, *(b)* for up to one month, *(c)* for longer than one month and *(d)* permanently as a result of their participation in boxing in each of the last five years. [14416]

Mr Robathan: Information relating to reasons for being unfit for duty is not recorded in a format that allows for different forms of sporting activity to be distinguished. In order to determine how many individuals have been injured and/or rendered unfit for duty for any period of time due to boxing, a manual search of records on multiple sites would be required, and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with The Royal British Legion to *(a)* increase the scope and monetary value of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and *(b)* to ensure a similar level of provision under the War Pension scheme in respect of claimants injured before 2005; and if he will make a statement. [14707]

Mr Robathan: We continue to consult with the Royal British Legion, who were members of the Independent Scrutiny Group, regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the recent review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) conducted by Admiral The Lord Boyce. We will also continue to engage with other interested groups on issues relating to the AFCS through the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation.

In line with Lord Boyce's recommendation, there are no plans to review the War Pension Scheme provision for injuries before the AFCS was introduced in 2005.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of each armed service were dismissed for using illegal substances in each of the last five years. [14766]

Mr Robathan: The number of service personnel dismissed for using illegal substances in the last five years is given in the following table. The armed forces drug misuse policy is that the misuse of drugs is inconsistent with service life and our policy can be described as 'zero tolerance'.

Number

	Royal Navy/ Royal Marines	*Army*	*RAF*
2005	49	755	27
2006	59	760	20
2007	66	773	10
2008	74	723	21
2009	58	657	17

These figures do not include dismissals at court martial or summary trial resulting from drug-related offences. To further classify the specific grounds in these cases, i.e. whether the individual actually used illegal substances, would involve scrutiny of individual cases which would incur disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account his Department takes of *(a)* children for whom armed forces personnel do not have full custody, *(b)* children of armed forces personnel over the age of 18 years who wish to live with their families and *(c)* elderly relatives for whom armed forces personnel wish to care when allocating service families' accommodation. [14341]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* We take our responsibilities towards families seriously and will consider a range of individual circumstances when determining eligibility for Service Families Accommodation. This includes wider welfare needs such as maintaining contact with children or caring for an elderly relative.

Children under the age of 25, who are not married and are in full-time education, are considered to remain dependent upon parents and as such generate an entitlement for the parents. Where there are non-dependent young adults we will do all we can to allocate a property to reflect a specific need, but this is subject to availability.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work his Department has undertaken on the Defence Housing Estate at RAF Brize Norton in preparation for the proposed closure of RAF Lyneham. [14452]

Mr Robathan: In anticipation of an increased requirement for accommodation at RAF Brize Norton, work is under way to demolish some 600 service family accommodation properties that are at the end of their serviceable life. We are currently planning to replace these with 788 new build properties.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on implementing recommendation 1, on strategic review, of the National Audit Office report of Session 2008-09 on Services Families Accommodation, HC 13. [14453]

Mr Robathan: We are currently undertaking a Strategic Defence and Security Review. The outcome will be announced in the autumn after the Government's spending review concludes.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will include in the proposed Military Covenant a commitment to first class accommodation for military personnel and their families. [14674]

Mr Robathan: In our programme for government we stated that we would look at whether there is scope to refurbish armed forces' accommodation from efficiencies within the Ministry of Defence. The ongoing Strategic Defence and Security Review is currently considering the rationalisation and development of future estates and the management of the defence infrastructure in order to address this commitment.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many thefts from *(a)* unoccupied and *(b)* occupied houses owned by the Ministry of Defence were reported in 2009. [14732]

Mr Robathan: A complete record of thefts from Defence owned houses is not available as a number of these are reported to and therefore held by, local police forces. However, those recorded by the Ministry of Defence Police are as follows:

(a) In 2009 there were 96 thefts from unoccupied houses.

(b) In 2009 there were 51 thefts from occupied houses.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in respect of which 50 substitute *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living accommodation properties the highest rents were charged in 2009. [14737]

Mr Robathan: Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SSFA) and Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA) properties may be rented to accommodate Service families and single serving personnel respectively when no suitable Ministry of Defence accommodation is unavailable close or at the duty station. Substitute accommodation is only used as a last resort and often more than one Service person may occupy an SSSA property.

The 50 most expensive SSSA properties rented during 2009 were as follows:

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*	*Number of occupants*
London SW1P	3,275.00	3
London SW1P	3,240.00	3
Slough	3,060.75	5
London SW1P	3,030.00	1
London SW1V	2,814.80	3
London N1	2,550.00	3
Salisbury	2,525.00	4
London SE1	2,513.33	2
London SW6	2,408.33	3
London SW1P	2,408.33	2
Saffron Walden	2,402.50	4
London SWIP	2,384.20	2
London SWIO	2,383.33	1
London SW17	2,371.15	3

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*	*Number of occupants*
London SW1P	2,340.00	2
London SE1	2,331.80	3
London SW1P	2,325.00	3
London SW1P	2,301.25	2
Nottingham	2,300.00	5
London SW6	2,280.25	2
London SW1P	2,275.00	2
London SW8	2,272.00	2
London NW5	2,253.33	1
London SW1P	2,214.75	2
London SE1	2,209.35	2
London E14	2,202.20	2
Bordon	2,200.00	4
London SW11	6,200.00	2
London SW1P	2,200.00	2
Bordon	2,200.00	4
London SW1P	2,195.50	2
London SE1	2,192.33	2
LONDON SW1V	2,192.00	2
London E14	2,191.66	2
London W8	2,191.66	1
London SE1	2,188.33	1
London SW8	2,185.05	2
London SW1P	2,184.00	2
London SW1P	2,182.85	2
London SW1V	2,181.55	2
London SW1V	2,178.50	2
London SW1P	2,177.80	2
London SW9	2,175.65	2
London SW1P	2,173.60	2
London SW11	2,171.60	2
London SW1P	2,170.00	2
London SW1P	2,169.45	2
London SW1P	2,169.45	2
London SW8	2,162.20	2
London SW11	2,162.00	2

The 50 most expensive SSFA properties rented during 2009 were as follows:

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*
London SW3	6,933.33
London W2	6,000.00
Northwood	4,700.00
Windsor	4,500.00
Gerrards Cross	4,280.00
London SW19	4,117.00
Northwood	4,038.00
London W6	3,900.00
London SW13	3,725.00
London SW6	3,708.33
New Malden	3,700.00
London SW15	3,683.33
London W4	3,575.00
London SW4	3,575.00
London SE10	3,525.00
Great Missenden	3,500.00
Warminster	3,500.00
Windsor	3,500.00
London NW3	3,383.33
London E14	3,298.75
Richmond	3,284.45
London SW6	3,228.33
Banstead	3,225.00
London W4	3,163.33
Richmond	3,152.05
London W4	3,141.66
London SW15	3,126.00
Sevenoaks	3,050.75
London SW11	3,033.33
London SW15	3,025.25
London W4	3,025.00
Princes Risborough	3,000.00
Great Missenden	3,000.00
Camberley	3,000.00
Great Missenden	3,000.00
Romsey	3,000.00
London SW15	3,000.00
Northwood	3,000.00
Great Missenden	2,950.00
Kingston Upon Thames	2,925.00
Burford	2,920.00
Epsom	2,920.00
Aylesbury	2,900.00
Northwood	2,900.00
London SE10	2,900.00
High Wycombe	2,850.00
Epsom	2,850.00
London SW15	2,839.00
London SW6	2,825.00
Windsor	2,800.00

Armed Forces: Medals

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on reviewing the *(a)* right of ex-service personnel to wear medals awarded by foreign governments and *(b)* practice of retrospective awarding of UK general service medals. [14602]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 172W, to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell).

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effects of loss of limbs in combat on the mental health of soldiers. [13345]

Mr Robathan: We recognise that all battle-injured personnel, including those suffering a traumatic amputation, could be at risk of mental health problems. All operational casualties who are admitted to the Royal Centre of Defence Medicine within the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust have access to a military mental health nurse team. In addition, all trauma survivors, including amputees, who are referred to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court have a mental health assessment as part of their multidisciplinary team admission assessment. Mental health professionals are available to carry out further assessments and provide treatment as required.

Dr Andrew Murrison MP has been asked by the Prime Minister to carry out a study into the health of service personnel to see what more can be done to meet their needs.

Armed Forces: Prosthetics

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will undertake a review of the *(a)* quality and fit of prosthetic limbs and *(b)* level of counselling offered to former service personnel who lose limbs in combat. [13611]

Mr Robathan: Injured UK service personnel who have suffered traumatic amputation as a result of battle or non-battle injury attend the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court in Surrey, where they are supplied with tailor-made prostheses with state of the art componentry which is matched to their clinical needs. Quality and fit of prosthetic limbs are of paramount importance in the rehabilitation process, and as part of the routine clinical care every amputee case at DMRC is regularly assessed for the comfort and fit of their socket, and the alignment and functional quality of all components are checked every time the patient comes to DMRC as either an in-patient or out-patient.

The Department of Health (DH) and devolved Administrations have agreed that the level for limb fitting support for service personnel should be maintained by the NHS when the individual leaves the service, be it on medical discharge or after completion of their engagement. The DH has advised strategic health authority chief executives of the need to ensure continuity of provision of prostheses subject to the clinical needs of individuals. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has discussed transitional arrangements for seriously injured personnel with key NHS providers for those leaving the armed forces and put in place a protocol to help ensure ease of transfer.

As part of the overall rehabilitation process, military patients at Headley Court also have access to trained mental health staff, psychologists and social workers who can provide treatment and advice to help them come to terms with their injuries. For amputees who are leaving the services and are assessed as requiring ongoing counselling, arrangements will be made for them to receive this through the NHS as part of the transfer of medical care. Transition protocols between MOD and DH have been developed and are aimed at ensuring an effective transfer of care from MOD to the NHS and other providers.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on replacing the ceremonial uniforms of the *(a)* Grenadier Guards, *(b)* Coldstream Guards, *(c)* Scots Guards, *(d)* Irish Guards and *(e)* Welsh Guards in each of the last 13 years. [14740]

Peter Luff: The expenditure over the last six financial years for replacing ceremonial uniforms, including hats, boots, belts, jackets, trousers and gloves, is provided in the following table. The expenditure for earlier financial years is no longer held.

£

Guard regiment	*FY 2004-05*	*FY 2005-06*	*FY 2006-07*	*FY 2007-08*	*FY 2008-09*	*FY 2009-10*
Grenadier Guards	154,000	38,000	170,000	349,000	282,000	86,000
Coldstream Guards	56,000	151,000	290,000	146,000	188,000	35,000
Scots Guards	45,000	28,000	172,000	69,000	185,000	37,000
Irish Guards	330,000	33,000	172,000	114,000	872,000	61,000
Welsh Guards	11,000	129,000	163,000	109,000	86,000	78,000

Armed Offices: Driving

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel in each service were trained as drivers in each of the last five years for which figures are available; how many in each such year were trained by *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* private driving schools; and if he will make a statement. [14702]

Mr Robathan: Information on the number of trained drivers is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the number of driving licences that have been issued to armed forces personnel as a result of centralised training by the Defence School of Transport, training in individual units across the UK and Germany and as a result of Urgent Operational Requirements is recorded. This information is shown in the following table:

Trained by	*Originating service*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
MOD staff (military or civil servants)	RN/RM	1,097	1,051	1,991	1,768	1,455
	Army	9,876	10,021	10,120	10,291	8,185
	RAF	1,535	1,374	1,346	1,616	1,466
	Total	12,508	12,446	13,457	13,675	11,106
Contracted Driver Training	RN/RM	241	676	183	315	269

Trained by	*Originating service*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
	Army	6,636	6,981	6,375	6,274	6,916
	RAF	98	8	99	192	119
	Total	6,975	7,665	6,657	6,781	7,304
Urgent Operational Requirement	All services	0	1,092	921	2,081	2,240

An individual may hold more than one licence, for example, a soldier must first hold a Category B driving licence before obtaining their Category C licence (Long Goods Vehicle).

Army: Horses

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of maintaining horses in the Army in 2009-10. [15113]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested, and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Commonwealth: Armed Forces

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen from other Commonwealth countries *(a)* are serving in the UK armed forces and *(b)* have served in the UK armed forces in (i) the last 10 years and (ii) the last five years; and what estimate he has made of likely future trends in these numbers. [15047]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 July 2010, there were 8,470 service personnel who are citizens of Commonwealth countries. It is not possible to ascertain without disproportionate cost the numbers of Commonwealth service personnel who have served in the last five or in the last 10 years. However, as at 1 April 2000 and 1 April 2005, there were 820 and 6,040 Commonwealth personnel respectively in the Army. Figures for the Naval Service and RAF are not available as their legacy database systems do not enable the distinction to be made between Commonwealth citizens and other non-British nationals. There has been no estimate of future trends in the recruitment of Commonwealth citizens.

Cyprus

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all the land occupied by his Department's facilities in Cyprus is classed as sovereign British territory. [14905]

Mr Robathan: No, not all the land occupied by the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) facilities in Cyprus is classed as sovereign British territory. Under the 1960 Treaty of Establishment (ToE) the United Kingdom retained British sovereignty over two areas, one in the south (Akrotiri) and the other in the east (Dhekelia), which are known collectively as the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs). In addition, the MOD has facilities on several 'retained sites'. The ToE gives the UK rights on these sites, although the Republic of Cyprus has sovereignty over the territory on which the retained sites are located.

Departmental Television and Film

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* television programmes and *(b)* feature films were filmed at locations owned by his Department in 2009. [14741]

Mr Robathan: Film and television programme makers regularly use Ministry of Defence (MOD) locations, personnel and equipment in their productions.

Using MOD assets is of benefit to the MOD by providing positive public relations and income.

A list of locations used in 2009 for non-news programmes and films that have involved the central RN, Army and RAF Public Relations branches is shown in the following table. Records of requests to film for news purposes are not held centrally.

In addition, programme makers can approach individual establishments for commercial filming using www.filmlocations.mod.uk. The MOD does not hold a central record of all such activity and the information required could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Table 1 - Public relations TV/Filming

Title	*Company*	*MOD Location*
Royal Navy:		
Ross Kemp on Pirates	Sky One/Tiger Aspect	HMS Northumberland
Chaplains at War	Ch 4/Darlow Smithson	Units in Afghanistan
Highland Emergency 2	Ch 5/Granada	HMS Gannett
Warship 2	Ch 5/Granada	HMS Bulwark
Empire of the Seas	BBC2	—
Sea Patrol	Ch 5/Wall To Wall	HMS Severn
Khumbu Challenge	Sky One/ Uppercut	—
T45	Ch4/ITN	Type 45 Destroyer
Astute	BB2/BBC in-house	Astute Submarine
Chris Barrie's Age of the Machine	National Geographic/ Gamma Project	815 NAS, RNAS Yeovilton
Bang goes the Theory	BBC1	RNAS Yeovilton
Engineering Connections	BBC/Darlow Smithson	HMS Illustrious
The Boats That Built Britain	BBC4/Form Films	HMS Bulwark
Army:		
Road Warriors	TV1 TwoFour	Salisbury Plain Training Area

Table 1 - Public relations TV/Filming

Title	*Company*	*MOD Location*
Frontline Battle Machines	Discovery	School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Bordon, Defence School of Transport Leconfield, Defence Training Estate (DTE) Lulworth, RAF Odiham, DTE Standford, RAF Wattisham, DTE Salisbury Plain, RAF Brize Norton, RAF Lyneham, 40 Commando Taunton
Scots at War	STV	Fort George and Redforth Barracks
Location, Location, Location	C4	Army Training Regiment Winchester
The Restaurant	BBC2	13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, Melville Barracks, Colchester
Pearson Education DVD	1410	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
Safe Drive Stay Alive	Surrey Fire and Rescue	25 Training Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, Deepcut
Army Girls	Alba TV	Cameron Barracks, Inverness
The Queen's Horses	ARD TV	Windsor Barracks, Hyde Park Barracks, St John's Wood Barracks, Knightsbridge Barracks, Horseguards
Top Gear	BBC2	DTE Bovington
Out of the Frying Pan	BBC2	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
Wounded	BBC	—
Fighting Passions	C4	Infantry Training Centre (Catterick)
Great British Menu	BBC	DTE Catterick and Scotland
Seven Ages of Britain	BBC	Royal School of Mechanical Engineering, Chatham
Girls on the Frontline	BBC3	Maghralavie Barracks, Lisburn
Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo	ITV1	Windsor Barracks and Knightsbridge Barracks
Scots Guards Band	CBBC	Wellington Barracks
RAF		
Coast	BBC	RAF Digby's School
Highland Emergency	Ch5	RAF Lossiemouth
Sea Patrol	National Geographic/Ch 5	Search and Rescue Detachment Wattisham
Forces Reunited	Sky Real Lives	RAF Valley and Leeming
Seven Wonders of the Solar System	BBC	RAF Henlow
Training the Paras	BBC Blue Peter	RAF Brize Norton
Battle of Britain with David Jason	ITV	RAF Coningsby
Trawlers Rigs and Rescue	Virgin 1	SARDets Leconfield, RAF Boulmer and Wattisham
Front Line Battle Machines	Discovery	RAF Brize Norton and Odiham
Flog.it	BBC	RAF Halton
Myths of UFOs	BBC	RAF Fylingdales
Genius of Britain	C4	RAF Boulmer and Boscombe Down
Bang goes the theory	BBC	RAF Cranwell and Valley
"Special Dogs" - One Show	BBC	RAF Valley
Songs of Praise	BBC	RAF Valley
Blitz street	C4	RAF Spadeadam and Wittering
Flying Hospital	C4	RAF Brize Norton and Lyneham
Paul O'Grady Show	C4	RAF Scampton
Great British Menu	—	RAF Coningsby and Halton
Air Force Afghanistan	Ch5	RAF Cottesmore
Coast	BBC	RAF Valley
Foyles War	ITV	RAF Halton
The Kings Speech	—	RAF Halton
Cosi	—	RAF Halton

Elizabeth Cross

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Elizabeth Crosses have been presented to date; and how many were in respect of *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [14706]

Mr Robathan: As at 10 September 2010, 1,862 Elizabeth Crosses have been issued to the eligible next of kin of deceased service personnel who have died on operations, or as a result of an act of terrorism. 155 were issued in respect of Iraq and 299 in respect of Afghanistan.

Germany

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people employed by his Department in Germany are *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK citizens. [14628]

Mr Robathan: The numbers of UK citizens and non-UK citizens employed in Germany by the Ministry of Defence are shown in the following table. These are civilian employees only.

	Number
UK citizens	4,335
Non-UK citizens	3,564

Germany: Armed Forces

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many children of British military personnel who are *(a)* under 10 years old and *(b)* between 10 and 18-years-old are being educated in Germany. [14627]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently educating 5,052 children under 10-years-old and 2,313 children between the ages of 10 and 18 in its schools in Germany. It is not possible to split these numbers between children of military personnel and those of UK-based civilians. Not all parents choose to educate their children within the MOD school system.

The schools also educate the children of MOD contractors and some local community children on a fee-paying basis. In addition to the numbers above there are currently 61 children under 10 years old, and 38 children aged between 10 and 18 being educated on this basis.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy personnel are based in Germany. [14630]

Nick Harvey: The number of military personnel based in Germany is shown in the following table broken down by service.

	Number
Army	17,743
Royal Air Force	171
Royal Navy	18

Gibraltar

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people employed by his Department in Gibraltar are *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK citizens. [14580]

Nick Harvey: The information is not held in the format requested.

The numbers of civilian staff employed by British Forces Gibraltar on 3 September 2010 were as follows:

Civilian staff type	*Number*
UK based civilians	60
Locally engaged civilians	690
of whom:	
Spanish and Moroccan	45
Other nationalities	10

There are also a number of civilians employed through Defence contracts, the numbers and nationalities of whom are not held centrally.

Inside Right Programme

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of progress of the Inside Right programme; and if he will make a statement. [14703]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence welcomes the Inside Right programme run by the Football Foundation, and has offered financial support over a three year period. An initial progress report is expected in March 2011 at the end of the first year of the scheme.

Military Covenant

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to bring forward legislation to enshrine the military covenant in law. [14695]

Mr Robathan: Rebuilding the Military Covenant is one of the most important objectives of this Government. We are currently considering how best to fulfil the Covenant in terms of resource allocation, policies and legislation.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation his Department has undertaken on re-writing the military covenant; and if he will make a statement. [14696]

Mr Robathan: As part of its commitment to rebuild the Military Covenant, we are planning to refresh and rewrite the Covenant itself. Consultation is now getting under way and will include both internal and external representatives of the armed forces community.

Military Exercises

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions military personnel undertook training exercises at each site outside the UK between 2008 and 2010. [14655]

Nick Harvey: From 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2010, United Kingdom armed forces personnel conducted, or contributed to, some 480 training exercises of varying size and scale, and covering a range of military activities, at overseas locations.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the average annual cost to the public purse of sending military personnel to train at his Department's bases and affiliated sites in Scotland. [14656]

Nick Harvey: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the average annual cost to the public purse of sending military personnel to sites outside the UK to undertake training exercises. [14657]

Nick Harvey: The total costs of exercises and training conducted outside the UK are known, but the specific costs of sending military personnel participating in these activities are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured in road accidents when (i) on duty and (ii) off duty in each of the last five years. [14813]

Mr Robathan: The following tables provide information on the numbers of armed forces personnel killed (Table 1), seriously injured (Table 2) and slightly injured (Table 3) both on and off duty.

Table 1: Road accident deaths in the UK regular armed forces, by duty status and year

Number

	All	*On duty*	*Off duty*	*Under investigation*
All	208	36	171	1
2005	52	7	45	0
2006	57	8	49	0
2007	47	12	35	0
2008	25	7	18	0
2009	27	2	24	1

Table 2: Road accident serious injuries in the UK regular armed forces, by duty status and year

Number

	All	*On duty*	*Off duty*	*Duty status unknown*
All	226	48	115	63
2005	6		0	—
2006	51	11	21	19
2007	69	16	29	24
2008	42		25	—
2009	58		40	—

Table 3: Road accident slight injuries in the UK regular armed forces, by duty status and year

Number

	All	*On duty*	*Off duty*	*Duty status unknown*
All	340	131	84	125
2005	37		0	—
2006	89	34	21	34
2007	102	63	20	19
2008	66	21	21	24
2009	46		22	—

Note:

All numbers fewer than five have been suppressed. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is fewer than five, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot be derived from totals.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage people to take up his Department's funding for additional apprenticeship places in 2010-11. [15578]

Mr Hayes: We know that the demand from young people and adults for good quality employer-owned apprenticeships is high and the Government are committed to increasing the number of apprenticeships, in particular, advanced apprenticeships that confer technician status. The Government's decision to redeploy £150 million of our savings for 2010-11, creating an additional 50,000 adult apprenticeship places, demonstrates our commitment to high-quality skills. The National Apprenticeships Service and the Skills Funding Agency are working with training providers which will be encouraging employers to make these additional places available. This investment in our future will help train the next generation, as well as developing the existing work force, which is vital to build a modern advanced economy.

Broadband: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to roll out superfast broadband to the rural and hot-spot areas in Chatham and Aylesford constituency, with particular reference to Wouldham and Larkfield. [15093]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have stated that they want to see superfast broadband rolled out in rural areas of the UK at the same time as more heavily populated areas. The market is already rolling out superfast broadband to around two-thirds of the population. We intend to support this through a combination of regulatory and public policy measures, and Government financial support, beginning with three pilot projects which we hope to announce soon.

Cabinet Committees: Trade

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who will chair the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Trade. [15289]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 September 2010]*: The coalition Government reviewed the Cabinet committee system on entering office to make it more efficient. Where individual trade policy issues arise, they are considered by the relevant committee, such as Economic Affairs, European Affairs or the National Security Council.

Construction: Industry

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints from the public his Department has received about building firms in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [15278]

Mr Davey: The Department does not hold centrally the information in the format requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies have received from the public about (i) Strategy Insurance Limited, (ii) the Federation of Master Builders and (iii) Homeland Construction in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [15279]

Mr Davey: A search of the records database indicated that the Department has in the last five years received two complaints in respect of the Federation of Master Builders and none in respect of either Strategy Insurance Ltd. or Homeland Construction.

In respect of the Department's non-departmental public bodies: the Department does not hold centrally the information in the format requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Debts: Advisory Services

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of debt advice in respect of the most vulnerable people funded from *(a)* the Financial Inclusion Fund and *(b)* legal aid funds; [15421]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of government-funded debt advice; and if he will make a statement. [15423]

Mr Davey: The majority of research into the effectiveness of debt advice has focused on free debt advice. The results show a very positive picture.

The National Audit Office research, carried out over 18 months from the summer of 2008 showed that nearly everyone (95%) given advice under the Face-to-Face Debt Advice project run by BIS had acted on it and that the great majority (81%) had assessed it as improving their situation. We were pleased to note that their February report for this year concluded that the project was "delivering good value for money".

In respect of legal aid funds, that is the responsibility for the Ministry of Justice to assess the effectiveness of their programmes.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of Citizens Advice Bureau caseworkers provided for from the Financial Inclusion Fund. [15422]

Mr Davey: It is difficult to provide a precise estimate.

Most of the 16 projects that make up the BIS Face-to-Face Debt Advice project include a mix of caseworkers from Citizens Advice Bureaux and from other debt advice agencies.

The total number of caseworkers employed across the advice community is around 500.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people received debt advice provided for from the Financial Inclusion Fund in each of the last five years. [15465]

Mr Davey: In each of the last five years, the number of individuals receiving debt advice from the Face-to-Face Debt Advice project funded via the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) is as follows.

Financial years	*Number*
2006/07	26,567
2007/08	92,635
2008/09	100,968
2009/10	105,155
2010 to 30 June	26,442
Total	351,767

The Debt Advice in Prisons project run by the Legal Service Commission is also funded from FIF, but we do not have total figures for the number of clients advised under that project.

Employment Tribunals Service

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to streamline the employment tribunal system. [15737]

Mr Davey: As my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Universities and Science told the House on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 564, my officials are considering calls from interested parties for changes to be made to the employment tribunal system so as to streamline the process. I will make an announcement on what action I propose to take to address these issues in due course.

Further Education: England

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from England began attending further education colleges in Wales in each of the last five years. [15336]

Mr Hayes: Data for students attending further education in colleges in Wales are not collected by this Department.

Information on FE colleges is published by the National Assembly for Wales in the Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics, 2007/08 publication:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/post16education2010/100422/?lang=en

Further Education: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Wales began attending further education colleges in England in each of the last five years. [15366]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows FE participation of learners, whose home address is in Wales, studying in General Further Education Colleges and all Government funded learners in Further Education in England, 2004/05 to 2008/09, the latest year for which full year data is available. These data exclude learners who have moved from Wales in order to attend a Government funded FE provider in England.

Table 1: FE participation of learners from Wales in General Further Education Colleges and all FE provision in England from 2004/05 to 2008/09

	General FE College	*All FE provision*
2004/05	6,400	7,300
2005/06	5,800	6,700
2006/07	3,900	4,700
2007/08	4,200	4,900
2008/09	3,600	4,200

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable with earlier years due to a change in funding methodology.
3. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
4. Further Education Provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special College Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Further Education: Wrexham

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Wrexham began attending further education colleges in England in each of the last five years. [15367]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows FE participation of learners, whose home address is in Wrexham, studying in General Further Education Colleges and all Government funded learners in FE in England from 2004/05 to 2008/09, the latest year for which full year data are available. These data exclude learners who have moved from Wrexham in order to attend a Government funded FE provider in England.

Data for 2005/06 onwards are based on geographic boundaries as of May 2010. The figure for 2004/05 is based on an earlier geographic boundary therefore the figure for 2004/05 is not directly comparable to later years.

Table 1: FE participation of learners from Wrexham local authority in General Further Education Colleges and all FE provision in England from 2004/05 to 2008/09

	General FE College	*All FE provision*
2004/05	900	900
2005/06	900	900
2006/07	500	600
2007/08	500	600
2008/09	400	500

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The figure for 2004/05 is not directly comparable to later years as it is based on a different geographic boundary.
3. Figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable with earlier years due to a change in funding methodology.
4. Local authority data is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
5. Further Education Provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special College—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which bodies will take over from regional development agencies' responsibility for administering European regional development funds; and if he will make a statement. [15276]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

We are currently considering the future arrangements for running European regional development fund programmes in the regions, after the abolition of the regional development agencies, and we will make an announcement when the decision has been reached.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 1 June 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Eleanor Massey, transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. [15191]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills responded to this letter 14 September 2010.

Regional Development Agencies: Local Enterprise Partnerships

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* annual running costs of (i) regional development agencies and (ii) local economic partnerships. [15249]

Mr Davey: The information is as follows:

(i) The programme budgets given to the regional development agencies (RDAs) for 2010-11 are as follows:

£ million

RDA	*Budget (a)*	*Of which: administration costs (b)*
Advantage West Midlands	163	22
East of England Development Agency	78	15
East Midlands Development Agency	95	17
London Development Agency	275	37
North West Development Agency	234	34
One NorthEast	186	25
South East England Development Agency	96	20
South West of England Regional Development Agency	115	21
Yorkshire Forward	174	22

(ii) No estimate has been made yet of the capital and annual running costs of the local economic partnerships (LEPs).

Unemployment: Young People

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* between 16 and 24 and *(b)* between 18 and 24 years resident in Milton Keynes are not in education, employment or training. [15443]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number and proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds[1] Milton Keynes local authority in 2009 not in education, employment or training.

[1] Age used is respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

Milton Keynes	*Number/proportion*
Number	5,000
Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds	17
95% confidence interval	+/-7%

This information is from the Annual Population Survey, which covers the period January to December of each year, with 2009 being the most recent estimate available. The Annual Population Survey is the only available source of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are NEET. However, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies, such as parliamentary constituencies, or to provide local authority estimates for age ranges narrower than 16 to 24.

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals, which indicate how accurate an estimate is. In this example, a confidence interval of +/-7 percentage points means that the true estimate is between 10% and 24% in 95% of instances.

Quarterly estimates of the number of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) derived from the Labour Force Survey are published by the Department for Education. The latest publication can be found online at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000950/index.shtml

This includes supplementary tables giving breakdowns of 18 to 24-year-olds NEET for each region.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* administration, *(b)* logistics and transport, *(c)* food items, *(d)* non-food items and *(e)* other items in respect of the provision of immediate assistance in humanitarian situations in Africa in each of the last three years. [15137]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following amounts on logistics (including transport), food items, non-food items and other items for humanitarian assistance in Africa in the last three financial years for which figures are available. Aggregated administration costs for implementing partners are not available, but are typically between 7% and 13% of the total costs of delivery of assistance.

£

	Food	*Logistics*	*Non-food items*	*Other*	*Total DFID humanitarian funding*
2008-09	67,787,000	9,319,000	9,781,000	178,772,000	265,659,000
2007-08	39,447,000	9,806,000	8,800,000	147,419,000	205,472,000
2006-07	52,523,000	10,015,000	7,846,000	166,158,000	236,542,000

Source: DFID Africa Humanitarian Spend Analyses 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on immediate assistance in respect of humanitarian situations in Africa in each of the last three years; and how much such funding was disbursed *(a)* as part of a programme directly delivered by his Department, *(b)* by multilateral organisations, *(c)* by non-governmental organisations and *(d)* through budgetary support given to host governments in each such year. [15138]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided the following amounts in respect of humanitarian situations in Africa through multilateral organisations, the Red Cross, non-government organisations (NGOs) and bilateral aid to country governments, for the last three financial years for which figures are available. Immediate assistance is not provided through budgetary support to governments.

£

	Multilateral organisations	*Red Cross*	*NGOs*	*Bilateral aid to country governments*	*Total DFID humanitarian funding*
2008-09	195,012,000	23,544,000	46,981,000	122,000	265,659,000
2007-08	116,637,000	19,866,000	68,969,000	0	205,472,000
2006-07	169,877,000	16,598,000	50,067,000	0	236,542,000

Source: DFID Africa Humanitarian Spend Analyses 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* tarpaulins and tents, *(b)* mosquito nets, *(c)* blankets, *(d)* kitchen sets, *(e)* hygiene/first aid kits, *(f)* water purification products, *(g)* buckets and other water carriers and *(h)* stoves for immediate use in humanitarian situations in Africa in each of the last three years. [15139]

Mr Duncan: The requested information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the annual monetary value is of the contract held by his Department with Crown Agents in respect of the delivery of emergency and humanitarian relief services; and what proportion of that amount was spent on projects in Africa in each of the last three years. [15225]

Mr Duncan: The annual monetary value of the contract held by the Department for International Development (DFID) with Crown Agents for emergency and humanitarian relief services is £1,855,200. None of this amount has been spent on projects in Africa in the last three years. The contracted services have been used extensively during the last three years in DFID responses to disasters in Myanmar, Indonesia, Haiti, Pakistan and elsewhere.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's Chief Scientific Officer since 6 May 2010. [15353]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) chief scientific adviser has met with the Secretary of State seven times, the Minister of State once and has had nine meetings with myself, since the 6 May 2010.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13022]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not spent anything on vacant properties in the UK from 1997 to the present date. DFID has had no vacant properties in the UK during this period.

The requested information cannot be provided for DFID's overseas properties without incurring disproportionate cost. DFID has not hitherto held central records of our overseas estates. We are currently in the process of developing a central information management system that will capture this information.

Developing Countries: Poverty

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist developing country authorities in the collection of poverty data classified by indigenous and other ethnic groups. [15004]

Mr O'Brien: The collection of poverty data plays an important role in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Department for International Development (DFID) already provides considerable support to developing countries in this area, and is the largest bilateral donor to statistical capacity building. The Department works directly with national authorities in country, and through international agencies (including the World Bank, and United Nations) to support the collection of reliable and relevant data, including poverty data disaggregated by indigenous and other ethnics groups.

Overseas Aid: Pneumonia

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has allocated to tackling pneumonia in each of the last five years. [15000]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide targeted funds for tackling pneumonia to developing countries. DFID supports work on tackling pneumonia through our support to the health sector, but we do not monitor the proportion of this support used specifically for this purpose. UK aid is increasing the capacity of health systems to diagnose and treat all major causes of illness, including pneumonia, through our support to national health systems, international partnerships and organisations and research.

World Health Assembly: Pneumonia

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to implement the World Health Assembly resolution on pneumonia; and if he will make a statement. [14999]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) aims to ensure sustainable control and management of pneumonia, and other infectious diseases, by strengthening country's health services and their capacity to deliver interventions such as prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. In addition to increasing the quality and supply of services, DFID works closely with governments and other partners to make sure that these services reach the poor and vulnerable. We provide support for this through our country programmes, and through our funding to multilateral organisations and global funding instruments such as the World Bank, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

DFID supports the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) to deliver vaccination programmes and the pneumococcal Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which provides an incentive for pharmaceutical companies to develop and manufacture a pneumococcal vaccine that is highly effective in developing countries. As with all multilateral aid, this commitment is being assessed under the Multilateral Aid Review.

DFID is also developing a business plan to accelerate its work on maternal and newborn health, including exclusive breast feeding, maternal nutrition and the prevention of mother to child HIV transmission.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what targets he has for rollout of superfast broadband; and if he will make a statement; [14240]

(2) how much funding for superfast broadband he estimates will be provided from *(a)* the television licence fee and *(b)* the landline levy; [14241]

(3) what plans he has for a review of business rates for telecommunications networks; and if he will make a statement; [14265]

(4) in which year he expects 90 per cent. of UK households to be within reach of next generation broadband; [14266]

(5) how much funding he plans to allocate to support universal access to basic broadband in each financial year from 2012-13 to 2014-15; [14267]

(6) how much funding he has allocated to each of the three pilots of superfast broadband to take place in the next three years; [14268]

(7) in which financial year he expects funding from the television licence fee to be first available for provision of superfast broadband. [14269]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have set a clear target that the UK should have the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015. We intend to achieve this first through public policy and regulatory interventions and then if needed public spending. We have made no specific estimate of when 90% coverage will be reached.

Business rates for telecommunications networks are set by the independent Valuation Office Agency (VOA). I welcome the recent publication by the VOA of new guidance on the rating of telecommunications networks, which should make the rating system more transparent.

£200 million from the Digital Switchover help scheme underspend will be set aside to deliver the USC and superfast pilots. The locations and exact allocation to each area will be announced in due course. A guideline would be an average public sector subsidy of £5-10 million per project.

We have made clear that we will consider use of a proportion of the TV licence fee in the next settlement period (2013-18) to fund investment in superfast broadband. The amount dedicated to superfast broadband, if any, will be decided in the overall consideration of the licence fee and informed by the condition of the market.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much he estimates the previous Government's policy of providing universal access to basic broadband by 2012 was underfunded; [14890]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of mobile services to delivering universal 1 Mbps broadband. [15201]

Mr Vaizey: We estimate the cost of meeting the Universal Service Commitment would be at least double the funds identified by the previous administration and discussions with industry indicate that the shortfall may be even greater.

Broadband Delivery UK continues to assess the role of mobile services in meeting the Universal Service Commitment, but has yet to draw conclusions. We expect that a range of solutions—fixed and wireless (including satellite)—will be required to meet broadband objectives.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [15146]

John Penrose: All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Hospitality was provided for one event in July. The breakdown of this event is as shown in the following table:

Minister	*Event*	*Cost (£)*
Ed Vaizey	Official function	70

Film: Finance

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to encourage the production of films by British producers funded from sources based in Britain; and if he will make a statement. [15321]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to supporting the UK film industry and the two key mechanisms that currently support the film industry—the film tax relief and the dedicated pot of Lottery funding—are here to stay. Due to the changes we are making to the National Lottery, funding for film will increase in 2011, and again in 2012.

We are currently reassessing how the Government can best support the UK film industry because important challenges are yet to be addressed. We need a stronger, more sustainable film industry, where better capitalised production companies can build on their successes rather than remain partly reliant on public subsidy. We need a coherent strategy to ensure that talent can emerge from across the UK. And we need a more transparent framework that avoids duplication, delivers targeted funding, and reduces regulatory burdens and administrative costs.

We are engaging with the industry to discuss how best we can achieve these objectives, where public funding could best make a difference, and where private funding could contribute.

Newspaper Press

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to require UK-based newspapers owned by people not resident in the UK to display on each issue the name of the country of residence of the newspaper owner. [14806]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

No. It is entirely reasonable for people of any nationality, and based anywhere in the world, to invest in UK newspapers just as it is reasonable for UK nationals and those resident in the UK to invest in newspaper and other businesses abroad. A discriminatory measure of the sort proposed would in any case raise issues of compatibility with EU law.

Sports

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the total cost to the public purse is of the Talent Identification Programme operated by UK Sport and the English Institute of Sport. [14325]

Hugh Robertson: The Talent Identification Programme delivered by UK Sport and the English Institute of Sport (EIS) in partnership with National Governing Bodies was established in 2007, and the first UK Talent Strategy was produced in 2009 following a series of trial talent campaigns.

The strategy will be implemented over the London cycle, 2009-13, and talent campaigns are now deemed a core element of the World Class Performance Programme.

The total exchequer costs incurred by UK Sport in respect of the UK Talent Programme are £835,737 as detailed in the following table:

		£
	Programme spend on UK Talent Programme	*Staff costs for UK Talent Programme*
2007-08	449	61,081
2008-09	10,327	106,267
2009-10	515,296	142,317
Total	526,072	309,665

Source:
UK Sport

As a full partner in the UK Talent Programme, EIS allocated part of its core funding received from UK Sport to deliver programme activity.

Since 2007 the number of specialists in the field of talent identification has had to increase to match the scope of, and demand for the programme.

The total exchequer costs incurred by EIS in respect of the UK Talent Programme are £770,978 as detailed in the following table:

£

	Programme spend on UK Talent Programme	*Staff costs for UK Talent Programme*
2007-08	49,682	66,553
2008-09	57,659	76,883
2009-10	83,244	127,292
Total	500,250	270,728

Source:
EIS

The total cost to the public purse of the UK Talent Programme is £1,606,715.

Swimming: Concessions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department estimates will be saved by ending the free swimming scheme for children under 16-years-old; what the marginal cost to the public purse was of operating the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [15380]

Hugh Robertson: A total of £25,951,788 from the £40 million resource funding allocated for 2010-11 has been saved by ending the Free Swimming Programme for the under 16s and over 60s.

An additional £25 million of capital funding allocated for the programme in 2010-11 has also been saved.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Prime Minister what declarations of *(a)* interests, *(b)* gifts and *(c)* hospitality were made by special advisers based in No. 10 Downing street in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [15056]

The Prime Minister: This Government are committed to publishing on a quarterly basis details of gifts and hospitality received by special advisers. Information for the period 13 May to 31 July 2010 will be published as soon as it is ready.

Information for previous years was not routinely published.

Departmental Offices

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister what percentage of his Office's office accommodation he has offered to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport as office accommodation for staff of that Department; and when he expects such office accommodation to become available. [14692]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply.

No space has been offered by the Prime Minister to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport as office accommodation for DCMS staff.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Polling Station: Fraud

Graham Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government has to introduce a requirement to provide proof of identification at polling stations to help eliminate voter fraud. [14555]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to ensuring the integrity of the electoral process and tackling fraud wherever it arises. We are considering how best to do that and our approach will take into account wider reforms to registration and voting processes. In particular, the Government's plan to accelerate the introduction of individual voter registration will help protect against fraud by improving the accuracy of the electoral register.

Voting Methods

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to restrict voting in the House of Commons on matters exclusively relating to England to hon. Members who represent constituencies in England. [14892]

Mr Harper: The Coalition programme for government includes a specific commitment to establish a Commission to consider the issues raised by the present ability of MPs from the devolved territories to vote on matters for which the devolved Parliament and Assemblies have responsibility.

HEALTH

Abortion: Health Education

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the presentation of information about abortion services in GP clinics. [15483]

Anne Milton: The Department has not issued any guidance on the presentation of information about abortion services in general practitioner (GP) practices.

Providing high-quality information and advice, including written information, is an important aspect of care received by women considering an abortion. GPs should ensure that women considering a termination are equipped with appropriate information, as well as talking through all available options.

Abortion: Human Rights

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the General Medical Council on guidance to medical practitioners on conscientious objection to abortion and the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. [14742]

Anne Milton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with the General Medical Council (GMC) on conscientious objection to abortion.

The Abortion Act 1967 (as amended) makes provision for conscientious objection, allowing medical practitioners to make a decision not to participate in treatment authorised by the Abortion Act.

Medical practitioners that are ethically opposed to abortion should follow relevant professional guidance. The GMC's current guidance is clear that medical practitioners must not allow any personal views to prejudice their assessment of clinical need, or restrict patient access to care.

The Government consider the Abortion Act to be compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Cancer: Drugs

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the interim regional panels for cancer treatment will be able to take decisions on the provision of drugs relating to exceptional case requests. [14616]

Mr Simon Burns: We have made it clear in guidance issued to strategic health authorities by the National Health Service Medical Director that existing primary care trust funding routes should be adequately explored before a call is made on strategic health authority funds. A copy of this guidance is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/
Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_117996

Cancer: Hertfordshire

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of patients in Hertfordshire likely to be prescribed with innovative cancer drugs in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 following the establishment of the interim Cancer Drug Fund. [14991]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has no plans to make such estimates. We will consult shortly on plans for the establishment of the cancer drugs fund from April 2011 so that patients, clinicians and the wider national health service can input into its design.

Colic: Osteopathy

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the use of osteopathy to treat infant colic. [15291]

Anne Milton: The Department received two letters from a member of public in August 2010 and we replied with the following:

> Some health professionals apply chiropractic spinal manipulation for treating infant colic. However, a recent review of chiropractic spinal manipulation for infantile colic by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination accessible through NHS Evidence states the available evidence failed to demonstrate the effectiveness of spinal manipulation in infantile colic.

Community Hospitals: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the Community Hospital Fund was unspent at the time of the 2010 General Election; whether that money has been carried forward; by what means community hospitals can obtain funding for new build projects; and if he will make a statement. [14584]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department earmarked approximately £250 million over five years through the Community Hospitals Programme Fund. We expect the national health service will use around £225 million of this across 27 schemes. Some of the primary care trusts (PCTs) that were allocated funding were unable to spend it, either because there were unforeseen delays to developing the project, or in one case because the PCT decided that their original plans were no longer the best solution for the local community.

The final schemes are due to complete in 2011-12 and the Department is taking these into account as part of the work to inform the current spending review.

For new community hospitals, arrangements for capital funding will be informed by the responses to the White Paper consultation.

General Practitioners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to place restrictions on the nature of contracts into which primary care trusts may enter in the interim period prior to the implementation of GP commissioning. [14803]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts (PCTs) use national health service standard contracts when commissioning services from most providers. The Department is developing proposals to ensure the smooth transition of contracts from PCTs to general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures will be used to transfer assets of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to GP consortia. [15387]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', which was published on 12 July 2010, announced that strategic health authorities will be abolished and primary care trusts and practice-based commissioners will be replaced by general practitioner consortia.

Arrangements for the future ownership and management of their operational and administrative estates will be announced in due course.

General Practitioners: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to introduce for the allocation of funds by NHS commissioning boards to GP consortia. [14611]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', sets out the Government's intention that the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for allocating national health service revenue resources to general practitioner (GP) consortiums on the basis of seeking to secure equivalent access to NHS services relative to the burden of disease and disability and managing an overall NHS commissioner revenue limit.

The Government intend to use the forthcoming Health Bill to enact the statutory provisions required to achieve these objectives.

General Practitioners: Rural Areas

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP commissioners in rural areas will be able to form clusters with other GP commissioners across county boundaries. [14618]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) consortia will be statutory public bodies with powers and responsibilities set out through primary and secondary legislation.

The NHS Commissioning Board will have a duty to ensure comprehensive coverage of GP consortia across the country and will only authorise consortia once it is satisfied that they have the necessary arrangements and capacity to fulfil their statutory duties and accountabilities and that there is clarity about the geographical areas that they cover.

GP consortia will need to have boundaries that interlock so that taken together they cover the entire country. We propose that they have the flexibility within the legislative framework, subject to having sufficient geographic focus, to form consortia in ways that they think will secure the best health care and health outcomes for their patients and locality.

Consortia are likely to carry out a number of commissioning activities themselves. In other cases they may choose to act collectively, for instance by adopting a lead commissioner model to negotiate and monitor contracts with large hospital trusts or with urgent care providers.

General Practitioners: Training

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure all GPs have access to adequate *(a)* information and *(b)* training on care for patients with eating disorders. [14685]

Mr Burstow: General practitioners have access to a number of sources of information about the diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders. These include the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on Eating Disorders, published in 2004 at:

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/10932/29218/29218.pdf

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk

which offers extensive information on eating disorders including diagnosis, treatment and local services;

NHS Evidence which offers both search facilities

www.evidence.nhs.uk

and the Mental Health Specialist Collection

www.library.nhs.uk/mentalhealth

with the most up-to-date, quality-assured evidence about the conditions.

With regard to training, the content of curriculum and quality and standard of training for medical professions is the responsibility of the appropriate professional regulatory body. The content and standard of medical training is the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC), which is the competent authority for medical training in the United Kingdom. The GMC is an independent professional body.

The content and standard of postgraduate medical training is also the responsibility of the GMC since the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board merged with the GMC on 1 April 2010. Curricula are developed by the medical royal colleges.

Continuing professional development needs of doctors are determined by regulatory requirements and local national health service priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

However, whilst it is not practicable or desirable for the Government to prescribe the exact training that any individual doctor will receive we are aware of the need to ensure perceived areas of weakness in training curricula are addressed. For that reason, we are liaising with the Regulators and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges about how best to ensure curricula do meet requirements.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent surveys the Food Standards Agency has commissioned or conducted on public views on genetically-modified crops; what the cost to the public purse was of each such survey; and if he will make a statement. [14431]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency funded a series of questions on food technologies, including genetically modified foods, as part of the 2008 British Social Attitudes (BSA) Survey. The total cost of this work, of which genetic modification was only a part, was £89,590. Following from this survey, the agency commissioned qualitative research into public attitudes among groups of people who had expressed differing views on genetically modified food in the BSA Survey. The cost of this work was £73,654.50. The results of these projects are available from the Agency's website.

www.food.gov.uk/science/socsci/ssres/crosscutss/
foodtechbsa08

Since 2001, the Agency has conducted quarterly "tracker" surveys that monitor changes in consumer attitudes towards a range of issues. These include questions about the level of public concern about a wide range of food issues, including genetic modification. However, genetic modification is only a minor component of these surveys, details of which are available at:

www.food.gov.uk/science/socsci/surveys/publictrackingsurvey

The last tracker survey, published in March 2010, has been placed in the Library.

Health Centres

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future of existing polyclinics; and if he will make a statement. [15280]

Mr Simon Burns: Our overarching principle is that commissioning decisions should, wherever possible, reflect the views of local clinicians and the local public. Under the proposals set out in our NHS White Paper: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", an NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning primary care services for registered patients, while general practitioner (GP) consortia will be responsible for commissioning urgent care.

The responses to the consultation on "Commissioning for Patients", as part of the wider proposed changes in the White Paper, will enable us to proceed to set out the full details of how GP-led commissioning will work. We urge anyone who has any concerns to respond to the consultation by 11 October.

Health Services

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publish the content of feedback forms submitted during consultation workshops on the NHS White Paper. [14750]

Mr Simon Burns: A Government response to the feedback received on the White Paper and associated consultation documents will be published in due course, in accordance with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation. This response will set out what decisions have been taken in light of the views that have been received through feedback forms and other channels. There is no requirement for respondents to use a specific feedback form and comments are being submitted in a variety of formats.

Health Services: Children

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed changes to the healthcare commissioning process on those with the most complex health needs, with particular reference to children with *(a)* autism and *(b)* mental health problems. [14821]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients" on 22 July 2010 which set out the intended arrangements for general practitioner Commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board. A copy has already been placed in the Library. We are engaging on these proposals and consulting on specific questions highlighted in the document, including child and adolescent mental health services.

Primary care professionals coordinate all the services that patients receive, helping them to navigate the system and ensure that they get the best care. For this reason they are best placed to coordinate the commissioning of care for their patients while involving all other clinical professionals who are also part of any pathway to achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, better patient experience and more efficient use of national health service resources.

Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has made to record responses to the recent NHS White Paper from health charities. [14745]

Mr Simon Burns: A Government response to the feedback received on the White Paper and associated consultation documents will be published in due course, in accordance with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation. This response will set out what decisions have been taken in light of the responses that have been submitted to the consultation.

Health Visitors: Recruitment

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects to have completed the recruitment of the additional 4,200 Sure Start health visitors foreseen in the Coalition Agreement. [13869]

Anne Milton *[holding answer 8 September 2010]*: The Coalition Agreement pledges to increase the number of Sure Start health visitors by 4,200. We have begun an extensive programme of work to enable us to increase capacity as quickly as possible. This will be in parallel with work to develop outcome measures in line with government policy for improving and demonstrating improvements in health.

Lister Hospital

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* timetable he intends to adopt for his Department's decision on Stage 4 of the redevelopment of the Lister Hospital, Stevenage, relating to accident and emergency services; and if he will make a statement. [14990]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a local issue.

Discussions are ongoing between NHS East of England, East and North Hertfordshire NHS trust, Hertfordshire primary care trust and local general practitioners in determining the next steps for stage four of the redevelopment of the Lister hospital.

We expect all reconfiguration schemes to be informed by local decisions, driven by clinical professionals, and grounded in firm clinical evidence, recognising the views of the community as laid down in the guidance from Sir David Nicholson, the chief executive of the national health service on 29 July 2010.

Mental Health Services

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates Ministers in his Department have met *(a)* mental health charities and *(b)* other health charities to discuss the NHS White Paper. [14746]

Mr Burstow: Since the publication of the White Paper, Ministers have met with mental and other health charities on the following dates. Ministers have also been to various events and visits and spoken to charities about the White Paper on an informal basis.

Date of event (2010)	*Event/meeting*
13 July	Cancer stakeholder meeting. Various organisations present.
14 July	Macmillan Cancer meeting.
21 July	Voluntary Sector Sounding Board. Various organisations present.
26 July	National Stakeholder Forum. Various organisations present.
26 July	Cancer Research UK meeting
27 July	Mental Health Stakeholder, future vision coalition. Various organisations present.
4 August	Stroke Association
9 September	Neurological Alliance
14 September	Social Care Reference Group. Various organisations present.
14 September	National Advisory Group on Offender Health. Various organisations present.

New Cross Hospital Wolverhampton: Nurses

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses there were at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. [13376]

Anne Milton: This information is only collected at NHS trust level. New Cross Hospital is the only hospital managed by The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust. Information on the number of qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff at The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust is shown in the following table:

			Number
	As at 30 September 1997[1]	*As at 30 September 2009*[1]	*As at 31 May 2010*[2]
	978	1,619	1,489

[1] The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

[2] Provisional Monthly NHS Hospital and Community Health Service Workforce Statistics.

NHS

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has made to log local authority responses to the NHS White Paper. [15216]

Mr Simon Burns: A Government response to the feedback received on the White Paper and associated consultation documents will be published in due course, in accordance with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation. This response will set out what decisions have been taken in light of the responses that have been submitted to the consultation.

NHS 111

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training and qualifications NHS 111 staff will be required to have. [15122]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS 111 is staffed by non-clinical call advisers, trained to the same standards as 999 operators, and nurse advisers. All staff attend an initial two week full-time course which includes mandatory written and practical assessments. Clinical staff also complete a four day clinical module, which comprises further written and practical assessment. After the initial training, call advisers and clinicians begin taking calls, under supervision. Approximately six weeks after the initial training, staff undertake a further one day course, during which their competence is assessed.

NHS Direct

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Midlands, *(c)* Dudley borough and *(d)* Dudley North constituency used the NHS Direct service in each year since 2000. [15118]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Number of calls to NHS Direct 0845 46 47

	National
2000	—
2001	—
2002	1,242,966
2003	5,256,329
2004	5,299,298
2005	5,484,724
2006	5,226,425

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
National	4,738,762	5,021,768	4,997,216
West Midlands strategic health authority (SHA)	356,994	419,689	441,588
Dudley primary care trust (PCT)	24,621	25,410	26,612

Source:
NHS Direct

The data include calls to NHS Directs 0845 46 47 line. They do not include other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners, including calls to the appointments line and locally commissioned services such as dental and out-of-hours services.

No data are available for 2000 and 2001. Data for West Midlands SHA and Dudley PCT are available from 2007 onwards. Data are not collected at borough and constituency level.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation his Department held with *(a)* medical professionals, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* the public on the decision to replace the NHS Direct service with the 111 service. [15119]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department conducted research with the public on the concept of 111 in November 2008, as well as separate research on the most appropriate number to use, and the cost of calling 111 in April 2009, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Ofcom also consulted on the use of 111 for the purpose of non-emergency health access in summer 2009, which received over 200 responses from a number of medical professionals and Royal Colleges, as well as members of the public. A copy of Ofcom's final response has been placed in the Library.

The Department is piloting the 111 service in the North East now and further pilots are planned for later this year. The evaluation of 111 will include a survey looking at people's experience of using the service.

Ministers and departmental officials regularly meet with stakeholders to discuss plans to implement 111.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* current NHS Direct staff are trained nurses and *(b)* NHS staff will be trained nurses. [15120]

Mr Simon Burns: Of NHS Direct's frontline staff, 48% are trained nurses.

In the current 111 pilot site in County Durham and Darlington, 38% of staff are trained nurses, although the appropriate skill-mix of the 111 service will be determined, in due course, by the formal evaluation we have commissioned.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training and qualifications NHS Direct staff are required to have. [15121]

Mr Simon Burns: Call handlers at NHS Direct are either non-clinical health advisers or nurse advisers. Health advisers undergo two weeks of classroom-based training and a further two weeks of taking calls under management supervision. Nurse advisers complete a four week classroom-based training period, followed by a four week period during which they take calls under clinical supervision. All nurse advisers must be Registered Nurses (Nursing and Midwifery Council) with post registration experience.

NHS: Lobbying

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is provided to NHS bodies on subscribing to lobbying organisations. [15314]

Mr Simon Burns: Guidance on subscribing to lobbying organisations is not provided to national health service bodies.

NHS: Social Enterprises

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether private sector organisations will receive payment from NHS funds for providing mentoring assistance to social enterprise and public service mutuals undertaking national health service work. [14815]

Mr Burstow: There is no specific policy to support public sector organisations in this way. However organisations setting up social enterprises or existing social enterprises may apply for funding through the Social Enterprise Investment Fund and if eligible this may include funds for mentoring services.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the National Health Service has spent on the employment of temporary contract staff in each of the last three financial years. [14641]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows how much the national health service has spent on non-NHS staff (agency) in each of the last three financial years.

	Non-NHS staff spend (£ million)
2007-08	1,207
2008-09	1,895
2009-10	[1]

[1] Not currently available

Note:

A figure for 2009-10 is not currently available, as the 2009-10 Financial Returns data are subject to internal review and potential resubmissions.

Source:

Trust, Primary Care Trust and Strategic Health Authority Financial Returns and Monitor consolidated accounts for Foundation Trusts

North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will grant North West London Hospitals NHS Trust further funding for health and safety repairs; and if he will make a statement. [15281]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental officials are working closely with the London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to identify the most appropriate financing solution for the health and safety repairs required at North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, and we expect to reach a conclusion by the end of September 2010. Departmental officials have been assured by the SHA that the short term financing can be managed locally, while this long term financing solution is put in place.

Obesity: Surgery

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures of each type to treat obesity in patients under the age of 18 years were carried out on the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years. [14783]

Anne Milton: There were no bariatric surgeries carried out in Nottingham County primary care trust of residence between 2004-05 and 2008-09 among those aged under 18.

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis of obesity[2] who had 'bariatric surgery'[3] by type of surgery among those aged under 18 in England, 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector			
	Gastric bypass	*Gastric band*	*Stomach stapling*	*Gastric bubble*
2008-09	8	3	2	0
2007-08	2	4	0	0
2006-07	2	0	0	0

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis of obesity[2] who had 'bariatric surgery'[3] by type of surgery among those aged under 18 in England, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Activity in English NHS hospitols and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Gastric bypass	*Gastric band*	*Stomach stapling*	*Gastric bubble*
2005-06	2	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0	1

Notes:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years). In particular improvements in how 'bariatric surgery' is coded, with the introduction of new codes in various versions of the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), growth due to better recording of procedures should not be misinterpreted as growth solely due to increases in activity.

These data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion. Also it is not possible to get a total 'bariatric surgery' figure from this data, as adding the types of 'bariatric surgery' together may include double counting, as a patient may have more than one type of 'bariatric surgery' within the same year.

[1] Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

ICD-10 code used:

E66 Obesity

[3] Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure

The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures - removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one counted in a single episode.

See clinical codes sheet for OPCS codes used for 'bariatric surgery'.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Strategic Health Authority (SHA)/PCT of residence

The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Activity included

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Bariatric Surgery OPCS codes

Gastric Bypass codes

OPCS 4.2

G27.1 Total gastrectomy and excision of surrounding tissue
G27.2 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum
G27.3 Total gastrectomy and interposition of jejunum
G27.4 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to transposed jejunum
G27.5 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to jejunum nec
G27.8 Other specified total excision of stomach
G27.9 Unspecified total excision of stomach
G28.1 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G28.2 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G28.3 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G28.8 Other specified partial excision of stomach
G28.9 Unspecified partial excision of stomach
G31.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum
G31.2 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.3 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.4 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.8 Other specified connection of stomach to duodenum
G31.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to duodenum
G31.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G32.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.3 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.8 Other specified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G33.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.3 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.8 Other specified other connection of stomach to jejunum
G33.9 Unspecified other connection of stomach to jejunum
G33.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec

From April 2006 additional OPCS-4.3 codes were added:

G28.4 Sleeve gastrectomy and duodenal switch
G28.5 Sleeve gastrectomy NEC
G31.5 Closure of connection of stomach to duodenum
G31.6 Attention to connection of stomach to duodenum
G32.4 Closure of connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.5 Attention to connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G33.5 Closure of connection of stomach to jejunum NEC
G33.6 Attention to connection of stomach to jejunum
G71.6 Duodenal switch

Gastric Band

Gastric band procedures may include the insertion, removal or adjustment of the gastric band.

OPCS-4.2 There were no specific codes for gastric banding procedures in OPCS-4.2.

OPCS-4.3 and OPCS-4.4

Insertion of a gastric band

G30.3 Partitioning of stomach using band

Removal of a gastric band

G38.7 Removal of gastric band

Adjustment of gastric band

G30.8 Other specified plastic operations on stomach
Y03.6 Adjustment to prosthesis in organ noc

Additional OPCS-4.5 code:

G30.5 Maintenance of gastric band

Stomach stapling

OPCS-4.2 codes for 'stomach stapling' are:

G30.2 Partitioning of stomach
Y26.3 Stapling of organ noc

Both codes are necessary and need to be recorded in the order shown above, with Y26.3 directly following G30.2.

OPCS-4.3, OPCS-4.4 and 4.5 has a dedicated code for 'stomach stapling', which did not previously exist in OPCS-4.2:

G30.4 Partitioning of stomach using staples

Gastric bubble (also known as gastric balloon)

OPCS-4.2/4.3/4.4/4.5

G48.1 Insertion of gastric bubble
G48.2 Attention to gastric bubble

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* evaluated and *(c)* undertaken on the operation of (a) prescription charges, (b) the Prescription Pricing Authority and (c) the NHS Choices website since May 2010. [14773]

Mr Simon Burns: In the period 12 May to 10 September 2010, the Department has not commissioned research on the operation of prescription charges or the NHS Prescription Services. Professor Sir Ian Gilmore's review of a prescription charge exemption for people with long term conditions was published on 27 May 2010. The Department routinely evaluates research published by many sources.

Capita Business Services is contracted to manage NHS Choices, and has in the same period, commissioned six surveys on behalf of NHS Choices.

Primary Care Trusts

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has provided to primary care trusts on the reorganisation of those trusts by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [15230]

Mr Simon Burns: 'Transforming Community Services: The assurance and approvals process for PCT-provided community services', published in February 2010, sets out the assurance and approvals process and a set of national tests for strategic health authorities (SHAs) to use when considering primary care trust (PCT) proposals.

The 'Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11', published in June 2010, reiterated the principle that separating PCT commissioning from the provision of services is a priority, and must be achieved by April 2011.

We want people to be able to make informed decisions about their health care, and have a wide range of services available to meet their needs in the community from a range of providers, to drive up quality. The first step to achieve this is to separate out PCT commissioning from the provision of services.

'Transforming Community Services: The assurance and approvals process for PCT-provided community services' and 'Revision to the Operating Framework for England 2010/11' have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 16 September 2010

SCOTLAND

BAE Systems

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he was informed that the Ministry of Defence had asked BAE Systems to consider the implications of reducing the number of aircraft carriers from two to one or zero. [15674]

Michael Moore: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) includes an examination of all major equipment and support contracts. The Government need to ensure the future programme is both coherent with future defence needs and affordable. I am in regular contact with colleagues on the progress of the SDSR.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he met the Secretary of State for Defence to discuss the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers following the confirmation by BAE that it had been asked by the Ministry of Defence to consider the possibility of cancelling one or both ships. [15675]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on all matters relating to the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), including the future of the Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carriers. I will continue to engage with both Cabinet colleagues and Scottish stakeholders throughout the SDSR process, in order to best represent the strategic and economic benefits that flow from Scotland's defence installations and associated industries.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15486]

David Mundell: The information is as follows:

(a) I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W, which lists the total severance payments made to Ministers from each Department who left office following the general election.

(b) The Government publish annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Departmental Welfare Milk

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) whether he had discussions with *(a)* the Department of Health and *(b)* the Prime Minister or his officials on the proposal to end the nursery milk scheme; [14248]

(2) when his Department was first informed of the proposal by the Department of Health to end the nursery milk scheme; and whether his Department received a copy of the letter from the Health Minister to the Scottish Executive on the proposal. [14246]

Michael Moore: The Prime Minister signalled his disapproval of this proposal on August 8, which will not now be implemented.

Housing Benefit

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 617-18W, on housing benefit, which *(a)* housing association, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* non-governmental organisations he met during July and August 2010 to discuss the effects of the proposed changes in housing benefit; and on what date each meeting was held. [15684]

Michael Moore: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and voluntary sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Official Visits

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 618W, on official visits, which local authority areas *(a)* he and *(b)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland visited during August 2010. [15682]

Michael Moore: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Ports: Police

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 618W, on ports: police, whether he has discussed the removal of UK Border Agency funding for three police posts at Stranraer port of arrival in his regular meetings with ministerial colleagues; how many such meetings have taken place since his appointment; on what dates the meetings took place; and which ministerial colleagues were present. [15777]

Michael Moore: I have both written to, and spoken with, the Minister of State for Immigration to raise this issue. As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such ministerial meetings.

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 618W, on ports: police, how many *(a)* oral and *(b)* written representations (i) he and (ii) the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland has made to the Home Office on the withdrawal of funding for three police posts at Stranraer port. [15781]

Michael Moore: I have both written to, and spoken with, the Minister of State for Immigration to raise this issue. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will be meeting personally with representatives from relevant authorities in the coming weeks.

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 618W, on ports: police, whether *(a)* he and *(b)* the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland plans to visit Stranraer port in the next three months. [15782]

Michael Moore: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I have plans to visit many areas of Scotland in the course of our duties in the next three months. We are continually engaging with the relevant people on this matter.

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 618W, on ports: police, how many meetings he has had on the decision to withdraw UK Border Agency funding for police posts at Stranraer with *(a)* the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, *(b)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department, *(c)* other Home Office Ministers, *(d)* the UK Border Agency, *(e)* Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary and *(f)* Ministers in the Scottish Executive. [15783]

Michael Moore: Ministers and officials have regular meetings with a wide range of corporate partners to discuss issues which affect Scotland. I last met with the Minister of State for Immigration last week and we discussed the issue of the policing of Scottish ports.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Board

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which external organisations she consulted prior to taking the decision to abolish the Agricultural Wages Board (AWB); and what consultation she plans to undertake on the arrangements to be put in place after the abolition of the AWB. [15745]

Mr Paice: There were no specific discussions with external organisations prior to the announcement by the Secretary of State, but views within the industry on the future of the Agricultural Wages Board (AWB) have been well known for many years, in particular those of the National Farmers' Union and Unite which represent employers and workers on the AWB. The abolition of the board will require amendments to primary legislation and therefore will be subject to proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate.

We intend to discuss with interested parties practical approaches to wage-setting in agriculture in the absence of the agricultural minimum wage and how workers can be best informed of their contractual rights after the AWB has been abolished.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the monetary value of the contribution to the agricultural economy of *(a)* the EU Single Payment scheme and *(b)* countryside stewardship and other environmental schemes relating to farming practices funded by her Department. [15534]

Mr Paice: Around £1.87 billion was paid to farmers in England under the 2009 single payment scheme. Around £350 million was paid out under the agri-environment schemes funded by DEFRA in 2009-10.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions each Minister in her Department has met her Department's chief scientific officer since 6 May 2010. [15435]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA Ministers meet with the chief scientific adviser (or when on leave an appointed deputy) on a regular, usually weekly, basis in the normal course of business in both policy formulation and departmental management. There would be a disproportionate cost to work out every specific occasion/time which each of the Ministers met the departmental scientific adviser between 6 May and today.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13477]

Richard Benyon: There is no central combined record of the cost of hospitality for events hosted by Ministers and paid for from central budgets or any hospitality costs associated with other departmental activities at which Ministers may have been involved. To identify such instances and the apportionment of any costs to the level of ministerial involvement would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them by *(a)* Ministers in her Department, *(b)* officials in her Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within her Department's area of responsibility. [12268]

Richard Benyon: The Department, and our network of delivery bodies and agencies, are committed to involving those affected by our policies in their design and development. This includes young people, schools, and student and other representative bodies.

The Department's Consumer Representatives Group includes young people's representatives and feeds into decisions on key policy areas. As part of citizen engagement under the Big Society, we will look to ensure that staff in core DEFRA, and our delivery bodies, increase networking opportunities with young members of the public. We also have specific projects with young people, to promote environmental behaviours and gain their insights. The Greener Living Fund works with civil society partners to engage their members and communities in living more sustainable lifestyles. This includes a project working with the National Union of Students to develop and deliver activity to encourage students to adopt more environmentally friendly behaviours.

We will continue to look for the best ways to work in partnership with all those affected by our policies and services so that our essential objectives are met.

Kosher Meat: EU Action

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will meet representatives of the Jewish community to discuss the effect on that community of proposed EU regulations on labelling kosher meat; and if she will make a statement. [15754]

Mr Paice: The Government are still considering their position in relation to the recent vote in the European Parliament on the provision of food information to consumers and the proposed requirement to indicate the method of slaughter where an animal has been slaughtered without prior stunning. Currently, there is no statutory obligation to indicate the method of slaughter on meat labels. However, the EU Commission is looking at the introduction of standardised welfare indicators and an EU wide welfare labelling scheme, although it is not yet clear how religious slaughter practices will be reflected in any new arrangements. We will ensure full consultation, including with religious groups, on any proposals that may emerge.

Lighting: Climate Change

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the contribution of energy-efficient light bulbs to reducing climate change. [15517]

Mr Paice: The public consultation on saving energy through better products and appliances is the latest analysis and assessment for a range of energy-using products and appliances. This was published by DEFRA on 17 December 2009 and included an assessment of CO_2 savings from more energy efficient domestic (Annex 5) and non-domestic (Annex 10) lighting.

The consultation document is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/energy-using-products/index.htm

Special Protection Areas: Dungeness

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the advice her Department has received from Natural England on extension of the Dungeness Special Protection Area. [15537]

Richard Benyon: A copy of Natural England's initial formal advice on the extensions of the Dungeness Special Protection Area (SPA), which is subject to consultation, will be placed in the Library shortly.

Stray Dogs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost to local authorities was of dealing with stray dogs in each of the last five years. [14209]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold this information, which is kept by each individual local authority and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Unadopted Drains

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals to require water companies to take responsibility for unadopted drains. [15617]

Richard Benyon: We published draft regulations for consultation on 26 August, with a view to transferring private sewers and lateral drains that drain to the public sewerage system into the ownership of the statutory sewerage companies in England from October 2011. The consultation paper sets out the Government's intentions and provides an opportunity for interested parties to respond with their views on the accompanying draft regulations.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15484]

John Penrose: On severance payments made to Ministers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

The total cost of special advisers is published annually in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister.

Gay Games: Greater London

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions his Department has had with the organisers of the bid for the Gay Games in 2018 on availability of Olympic facilities for use should London host the games; [15669]

(2) what support his Department has offered the organisers of the bid for London to host the Gay Games in 2018; and what further support it intends to provide. [15670]

Hugh Robertson: I have recently offered my support to the possibility of the Gay Games coming to London in 2018 in a letter to the co-ordinator of the bid, Jonathan Harbourne.

The coalition Government are committed to the promotion of sport at all levels, for any gender or sexual orientation from the Olympics, through to grassroots, community, clubs and local competitions.

This Department has not discussed the availability of Olympic facilities with the organisers of the bid for the 2018 Gay Games in London. The Olympic Park Legacy Company and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority will have responsibility for the Olympic facilities post 2012 and the organisers will therefore need to discuss availability with them.

Horserace Betting Levy Board: Legal Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much the Horserace Betting Levy Board has spent on external legal advice in each of the last five years. [15708]

John Penrose: The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Horserace Betting Levy Board to write to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15488]

Mr Paterson: The Department paid its outgoing Minister £10,162 and special adviser £28,520 in severance payments after the last general election in accordance with section 5 of the Ministerial and other Pensions Salaries Act 1991, and the provisions set out in the model contract for special advisers.

The previous Secretary of State was unsalaried and did not receive a severance payment.

WALES

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in her Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9668]

Mr David Jones: Wales Office officials refer to a standardised template when preparing briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in her Department in 2009-10. [9999]

Mr David Jones: In total, £2,537,337.87 was paid as remuneration to civil servants by the Wales Office in 2009-10. This includes pay, employer pension contributions and national insurance payments, as well as any taxable benefits and non-consolidated performance related payments.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Department who left office after the last general election. [15487]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the response by my hon. Friend the Paymaster General to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W, which lists the total severance payments made to Ministers from each Department who left office following the general election.

The Government publish annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the operation of the Future Jobs Fund in Wales. [15907]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on helping people back into work in Wales.

Our focus is on getting people back into permanent employment rather than providing temporary publicly-funded work placements. The Single Work Programme will replace existing back to work programmes including the future jobs fund.

Police: Elections

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions she has had with the police authorities in Wales on the introduction of directly-elected police commissioners; [15318]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Welsh Local Government Association on the introduction of directly-elected police commissioners in Wales. [15319]

Mr David Jones: I have met with police authorities in Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association to discuss the introduction of directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners, and will continue to meet with them and other stakeholders.

HEALTH

Autism: Children

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve mental health services for children with autism; and whether he intends to produce a strategy document for children with autism similar to his Department's Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives strategy for adults with autism. [15378]

Mr Burstow: We are committed to fulfilling the requirements of the Autism Act 2009 with the aim of addressing the disadvantages that children, young people and adults with autism can experience. We have also commissioned the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce clinical guidelines on autism in adults and children.

Staff working in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should have the necessary values, competencies, skills, and ongoing training to enable them to recognise and respond to the identified needs of children, including those with autism. Departmental officials are looking at what might need to be done to ensure CAMHS offer proper support to those with autism spectrum disorders.

Earlier this month we announced that we are developing a cross-Government mental health strategy. This will cover children and young people as well as adults and older people. The identification and treatment of children and young people with mental health problems is particularly important as half of all lifetime mental health problems begin by age 14. The new strategy will set the direction for service improvement for all children and young people experiencing poor mental health.

Bone Cancer: Medical Treatments

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of NHS patient access to ultra orphan treatments for rare forms of bone cancer. [15311]

Mr Burstow: The Department has made no such assessment. We want to improve health outcomes for all cancer patients, including those with rare bone cancer, by ensuring fast access to high quality treatment. We are also committed to increasing access to cancer drugs through the Cancer Drugs Fund and the additional £50 million funding announced in July 2010.

Broadmoor Hospital

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how frequently prisoners in Broadmoor are assessed for their suitability to return to a prison environment. [15605]

Mr Burstow: Prisoners are transferred to high security hospitals for treatment under the Mental Health Act (1983 amended in 2007). Decisions relating to a patient's treatment and any recommendation made to the Ministry of Justice about when it is clinically appropriate to return a patient to prison are for the patient's responsible clinician at the hospital. The timing of assessments is a clinical decision dependent on the patient's condition.

Cancer: Drugs

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether funding may be provided from the interim Cancer Drugs Fund for drugs which are in the process of appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [15743]

Mr Simon Burns: Regional panels, led by clinical experts, will decide on the use of the additional funding made available to the national health service in 2010-11 to support improved access to cancer drugs.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on ensuring that cancer treatment takes place as close to a patient's home as practicable; [14992]

(2) what his policy is on the establishment by major NHS cancer centres of satellite radiotherapy centres in order to deliver treatment closer to a patient's home; and if he will make a statement; [14993]

(3) if he will issue guidelines on the maximum distance patients should expect to travel to receive regular cancer treatments such as radiotherapy; and if he will make a statement. [14994]

Mr Burstow: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July, explained the Government's intention to create an NHS that is more responsive to patients' needs and achieves better outcomes, including cancer outcomes, that are among the best in the world.

We know that most cancer patients want to receive as much of their care as possible close to home, and the White Paper set out how we will hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivering better health outcomes through a national NHS Outcomes Framework. A full consultation and engagement process to develop the NHS Outcomes Framework is now under way and will close on 11 October 2010.

Ministers have asked National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards, to lead a review of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" (CRS). The review will align the cancer strategy with the White Paper; set the direction for the next five years, taking account of progress since the CRS was published in December 2007; and show how outcomes can be improved.

As part of the review, we are considering what support commissioners will need to continue to provide patient centred services in the most appropriate setting. We aim to publish an updated strategy in the winter.

In its 2007 report, "Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England", the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG) provided clear guidance and recommendations about access to radiotherapy to help commissioners, including the need for establishing satellite centres. A copy of this report has already been placed in the Library.

Since the publication of the NRAG report and the CRS, the National Cancer Action Team has maintained a national overview of radiotherapy service location plans to advise providers and commissioners on geographical spread and travel times.

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what expenditure Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust incurred on the production of the last nine editions of its quarterly newsletter, Engage; [15135]

(2) how much Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust spent on the production of its Annual Report for 2009-10. [15136]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the chair of Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to David Eva informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of suspects arrested in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the metropolitan borough of Dudley were diverted to (i) a place of safety and (ii) mental health services in the latest period for which figures are available; [15630]

(2) what proportion of people in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the metropolitan borough of Dudley who were taken to a place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 went on to receive treatment from mental health services in the latest period for which figures are available. [15631]

Mr Burstow: This information is not collected centrally.

Dementia

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 566W, on dementia: health services, how many National Dementia Strategy regional roadshows there have been; and at what location each such roadshow was held. [14802]

Mr Burstow: The Department has decided to hold a National Dementia Conference on 26 October in place of the regional roadshows that were proposed previously. The conference will bring together the Dementia Champions, the national director of Dementia and other key stakeholders.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of cognitive stimulation therapy as a treatment for dementia; [14799]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* GPs, *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, *(c)* primary care trusts, *(d)* the Care Quality Commission and *(e)* Age Concern on increasing the use of cognitive stimulation therapy as a treatment for dementia; [14800]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the number of primary care trusts which commissioned cognitive stimulation therapy for those with dementia classified as mild to moderate. [14801]

Mr Burstow: The Government believe that it is important that a range of interventions for people with dementia are developed and more research in this area is needed to take this forward. With regard to individual therapies, it is for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to address matters relating to assessments of the clinical effectiveness of various therapies and their use.

The Department has not made a separate assessment of the effectiveness of cognitive simulation therapy as a treatment and no discussions have been held with general practitioners, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, primary care trusts, the Care Quality Commission and Age UK on increasing the use of cognitive stimulation therapy as a treatment for dementia. Furthermore, there has been no estimation of the number of primary care trusts which commissioned cognitive stimulation therapy for those with dementia classified as mild to moderate.

Dental Services

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the reform of NHS dentistry; and if he will make a statement. [14552]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's coalition programme includes a commitment to the introduction of a new dentistry contract that will focus on achieving good dental health and increasing access to national health service dentistry. Proposals will be developed and piloted in consultation with the dental profession, patients and the NHS. We intend to publish pilot proposals by December 2010.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14925]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office gave the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

The total cost of special advisers is published annually in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Drugs: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Peterborough city council area were in receipt of supervised methadone treatment in each quarter since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [15381]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

Methadone is prescribed for a variety of clinical conditions, including the treatment of opioid (heroin) dependency, chronic pain and cough in terminal illness.

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and the other drugs such as buprenorphine which are also recommended for that purpose by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence nor does it distinguish between supervised and unsupervised treatment.

The following table shows the numbers of adults in structured drug treatment (prescribing) in Peterborough between 2005-06 and 2008-09:

Structured drug treatment (prescribing)

	Number
2005-06	338
2006-07	559
2007-08	752
2008-09	848

Notes:

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System operated by the NTA records the type of treatment interventions each person receives, e.g. 'specialist prescribing' (from a specialist drug service) and VGP prescribing' (from their general practitioner). It does not record the medication prescribed.

Source:

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) operated by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA)

Epilepsy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of *(a)* care trusts and *(b)* healthcare trusts in meeting the needs of patients with epilepsy; and if he will make a statement; [14443]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that healthcare bodies implement the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendation that epilepsy specialist nurses should be an integral part of the network of care of individuals with epilepsy in its guideline on the diagnosis and management of the epilepsies in adults and children in primary and secondary care; [14444]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* improve preventative care for patients with epilepsy and *(b)* reduce the costs of hospital admissions of patients with epilepsy. [14445]

Mr Burstow: The Department is funding the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to undertake a national clinical audit of the healthcare for children and young people with suspected epileptic seizures. The audit will collect data on the percentage of children with epilepsy with evidence of input by a paediatrician with expertise in epilepsy, and the percentage of children with epilepsy with evidence of input by, or referral to, an epilepsy specialist nurse. Early adopter sites have been able to submit data since January 2010. Other units will be invited to submit data from May 2011.

It is the responsibility of local health commissioners to ensure that they commission local services to meet the needs of their population. This includes ensuring that all relevant guidelines, including those issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, are able to be implemented where deemed appropriate.

In future, outcomes, which the national health service will be expected to achieve, will be set via the NHS Outcomes Framework, and the NHS Commissioning Board will hold general practitioner (GP) commissioners to account for delivery through the framework.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework gives GPs an incentive to identify, treat and help patients manage their epilepsy. The new contracts will have a big impact on the quality and accessibility of primary care services, and help improve preventative care and reduce hospital admissions for those living with epilepsy.

Fats: Health Hazards

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 172, whether he plans to introduce legislation to eliminate trans fat in food. [15226]

Anne Milton: We have no plans currently to introduce legislation to eliminate artificial trans fats in foods.

Voluntary industry-led action has already successfully reduced people's average intakes to well within public health recommendations and the Government are encouraging industry to continue to eliminate artificial trans fats in food.

HIV Infection: Health Services

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of levels of demand for outpatient services for people living with HIV and AIDS in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [13834]

Anne Milton: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Actual and estimated number of HIV-infected individuals seen for HIV care in national health service facilities in the United Kingdom: 2005-11

	Number of HIV-infected individuals seen for HIV care
2005	46,714
2006	51,699
2007	56,377
2008	61,110
2009	65,319
2010 (estimated)	70,000
2011 (estimated)	74,600

Notes:

1. HIV-infected individuals include those who were diagnosed with an AIDS-defining illness.

2. HIV-infected individuals include those who were seen for HIV care in both in-patient and out-patient services.

3. The estimated numbers of diagnosed HIV-infected individuals receiving care in 2010 and 2011 (rounded to the nearest 100) have been extrapolated from the number of individuals seen for HIV care in the previous five years. Between 2005 and 2009, the annual increase in the numbers of individuals seen for HIV care has been between 4,200 and 5,000 and the average annual increase has been used to estimate the numbers that will be seen in 2010 and 2011.

Medical Treatments

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the evidence provided in Appendix A of the Interventional Procedures Guidance Overview Document prepared by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is used by the Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee to determine the safety of a product; [15337]

(2) how many studies the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence analyses as part of the process for developing Interventional Procedures Guidance; and whether there is a limit on the number of studies which can be analysed as part of that process. [15013]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department. I have asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to respond directly to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Mount Vernon Hospital: Cancer

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate average journey times for patients resident in Stevenage and North East Hertfordshire receiving cancer treatment at Mount Vernon Hospital. [14995]

Mr Burstow: The Department has no plans to make such estimates. However, my hon. Friend may wish to contact the Hertfordshire primary care trust direct for more information.

Orphan Drugs

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services will use to consider ultra orphan drug treatments for use within the NHS; and what the duration of the review process is likely to be. [15377]

Mr Simon Burns: In the majority of cases, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will continue to appraise new drugs. However, for a small number of drugs where the patient population base is too small for NICE to carry out an appraisal, NICE may send the drug to the Advisory Group for National Specialised commissioning (AGNSS) for consideration. AGNSS will consider the processes and methods to apply when looking at drugs for the treatment of vary rare conditions at its first meeting in late September 2010 and will publish its agreed processes and time frame on the specialised services website at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on *(a)* prescription charges, *(b)* the Prescription Pricing Authority and *(c)* the NHS Choices website. [14775]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answers I gave her on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 781W and 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1022W.

Primary Care Trusts

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of a pilot scheme to end primary care trusts and implement GP-led commissioning before 2013; and if he will make a statement. [15229]

Mr Simon Burns: We want implementation to be bottom-up, with general practitioner (GP) consortia taking on their new responsibilities as rapidly as possible.

During 2010-11 we expect GP consortia to begin to form on a shadow basis, building on practice-based commissioning consortia, where they wish, and, where they are ready to do so, begin to take on some responsibilities from primary care trusts (PCTs).

PCTs will have an important task over the next two years in supporting GP practices to prepare for the new arrangements, including identifying the likely future shape of consortia and enabling them to start taking increasing responsibility for making commissioning decisions on behalf of PCTs.

Spinal Injuries

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to establish centres of excellence for the treatment of spinal problems or injuries; and if he will make a statement. [14902]

Mr Simon Burns: There are eight centres in England which provide specialised care and treatment for patients with spinal cord injuries. There are no plans to establish any further specialised centres at this stage.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the level of revenue losses for local authorities arising from the closure of retail outlets as a result of a tobacco display ban; [14988]

(2) if he will estimate the effect of a tobacco display ban on the number of retail outlets in *(a)* England, *(b)* Sussex, *(c)* Brighton and Hove and *(d)* Hove constituency. [14989]

Anne Milton: We are not aware of any evidence that removing tobacco displays will affect the number of retail outlets. However, we will continue to consider any evidence that emerges about the effects of the legislation in other countries.

DEFENCE

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14929]

Dr Fox: Information on the severance payments made to individual Ministers and special advisers is protected under the Data Protection Act 1998. However, the total severance paid by the Ministry of Defence to former Ministers who left office after the last general election was £55,546. The figure was contained in our answer given on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W, to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart).

The Government publish annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. Cabinet Office advise that the total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Gibraltar: Armed Forces

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy personnel there are in Gibraltar. [14675]

Nick Harvey: The strength of UK Regular Service personnel as at 1 July 2010 stationed in Gibraltar are shown in the following table:

Service	*Total number*
Army	30
RAF	70
RN	150
British Forces Gibraltar total	250

These figures may vary as personnel change location or are deployed on operations.

In addition, there are 220 regular members of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, which is locally raised.

A copy of the Defence Analytical Services and Advice publication TSP 10 (UK Regular Forces Stationed Location) has been placed in the Library of the House.

Parachute Regiment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is his policy that all of those serving in the Parachute Regiment should be trained as parachutists; and if he will make a statement. [14807]

Nick Harvey: It is the Government's policy that all Parachute Regiment soldiers are trained as parachutists.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of each battalion of the Parachute Regiment qualified as parachutists in each of the last five years; and how many members of that Regiment he expects to be trained in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [14809]

Nick Harvey: The number of those members of the Parachute Regiment who qualified as parachutists in each of the last five years are shown in the following table:

	Unit	
	2 Para	*3 Para*
2005	21	21
2006	63	106
2006	69	68
2008	42	82
2009	80	54

The number of those members of the Parachute Regiment expected to qualify as parachutists in 2010 and 2011 are shown in the following table:

	Unit	
	2 Para	*3 Para*
Qualified in 2010 to date	74	48
Expected to qualify in remainder of 2010	24	24
Expected to qualify in 2011[1]	109	109

[1] Based on current planning assumptions

I am withholding the information for 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which external organisations the Strategic Security and Defence Review has consulted to date. [14751]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 16 September 2010]*: The Ministry of Defence has engaged a wide variety of external organisations, including NATO, principal UK and international think tanks and academic institutes, trades unions, NGOs, industry organisations, and service veterans' and families' organisations.

Trident

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish studies *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken by his Department on the (i) financial cost and (ii) potential savings associated with the development of alternatives to the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system in advance of the publication of the value for money review of Trident; and if he will make a statement. [15294]

Nick Harvey: The 2006 White Paper 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994) set out the four generic deterrent options (silo, aircraft, ship and submarine) that have been subjected to detailed assessment. It concluded that a deterrent based on surface ships was assessed to be no cheaper than a submarine based deterrent but more vulnerable to attack. Deterrents based on silos or large aircraft were significantly more expensive and also much more vulnerable to attack.

The coalition Government are committed to retaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent based on Trident. The value for money review is to ensure that plans to maintain this capability are being taken forward in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish studies *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken by his Department on the (i) financial costs and (ii) potential savings associated with an extension of the life of the Vanguard submarines beyond five years, in advance of the publication of the value for money review of Trident; and if he will make a statement. [15295]

Nick Harvey: The value for money review was tasked with examining the programme timetable for the introduction into service of the next generation ballistic missile submarines. It will be considered by the National Security Council. The Council's conclusions will inform the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the comprehensive spending review, which will be published in the autumn.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has conducted a review of the UK's policy of maintaining Trident nuclear submarines on continuous at-sea deterrent patrol; and if he will make a statement. [15296]

Nick Harvey: The Trident value for money review covers value for money, not policy. Against that background, implementing continuous at-sea deterrence has always been a matter of acceptable operational risk. The review will test the balance between these risks and the cost of maintaining a continuous at-sea deterrence posture.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish studies undertaken by his Department on the potential savings associated with taking Trident submarines off continuous at-sea deterrent patrols, in advance of the publication of the value for money review of Trident; and if he will make a statement. [15297]

Nick Harvey: The Trident Value for Money review covers value for money, not policy. Against that background, implementing continuous at-sea deterrence has always been a matter of acceptable operational risk. The review will test the balance between these risks and the cost of maintaining a continuous at-sea deterrence posture.

The review will be considered by the National Security Council. The Council's conclusions will inform the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the comprehensive spending review, which will be published in the autumn.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to present to Parliament the annual Trident cost report to update the 2006 White Paper estimate of the capital costs of building a replacement for the Trident nuclear weapons system and the cost of operating a successor system; whether this will be a separate report from the Trident value for money review; and if he will make a statement. [15330]

Nick Harvey: We are currently planning for Initial Gate decision towards the end of 2010. A report will be published after the Initial Gate decision and, while it will be informed by the Trident Value for Money review, it will be a separate report.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which countries the UK is collaborating in the development of unmanned aerial vehicles. [14705]

Peter Luff: The UK does not currently have any collaborative programmes running in the development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). We are currently undertaking separate but parallel bilateral studies involving UK industry and industries in France and Italy to explore the feasibility for collaboration with either country. We do however have joint research programmes on UAVs with the US, France, Germany, Sweden, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Graham Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress has been made on the introduction of individual voter registration. [14556]

Mr Harper: On 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 883-85, I made a statement to the House outlining the Government's proposed approach to speeding up the implementation of individual electoral registration. As I said in that statement, we plan to legislate to introduce individual registration during the lifetime of this Parliament, in 2014. I also announced that we will be trialling data matching during 2011—that is comparing the electoral register with other public databases to find the people missing from the register. The aim is to tackle under registration among specific groups and ensure that every opportunity is available to those currently not on the electoral register.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ahmadiyya: Discrimination

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to tackle discrimination against Ahmadiyya Muslims in the UK. [15549]

Andrew Stunell: CLG officials have met representatives of the Ahmadiyya community on a number of occasions to discuss issues of concern including harassment of the Ahmadiyya and issues of discrimination.

Current legislation and the Equality Act 2010 which replaces it both protect people from discrimination because of their religion or belief. In addition, the UK is a signatory to the European convention on human rights and article 9 provides the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Connaught

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts between his Department and Connaught plc have been cancelled since May 2010. [15591]

Grant Shapps: The Department has not cancelled any contracts with Connaught plc since May 2010.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to provide support to tenants of housing associations affected by the entry into administration of Connaught plc. [15592]

Grant Shapps: Housing associations are well aware of the risk of a contractor ceasing to trade and most have contingencies in place to ensure that they can continue to deliver the services expected by their tenants. The National Housing Federation are monitoring the situation closely to assess the impact on tenants and landlords since Connaught plc ceased trading.

Departmental Public Bodies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to retain arm's length management organisations with their existing functions. [14967]

Grant Shapps: It is for councils to decide locally in consultation with their tenants on the housing management functions that are delegated to their arm's length management organisations (ALMOs).

Fire Services

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the merits of proposals for the regionalisation of the control centres; and if he will make a statement. [15158]

Robert Neill: The Government are becoming increasingly concerned at the inability of EADS to deliver on its contractual obligations to a sufficient quality and time and we have made this clear to them in no uncertain terms.

FiReControl, as with all Government projects, is being reviewed, to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. We are not going to provide additional public funding to bail out this contract.

The Government are committed to ensuring value-for-money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Local Government

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has for the creation of single member wards for local authorities. [14345]

Robert Neill: We have no plans to impose single member wards for councils. Councils' electoral arrangements are matters for the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which may undertake an electoral review with the intention to provide, as far as is practical, single member wards following a request from the council concerned. Single member wards can help enhance democratic accountability, but this should be a matter for local determination.

Local Government Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on council tax precepts for parish councils in 2011-12. [15533]

Robert Neill: In 2011-12, parish councils will continue to be entitled to set precepts, and the Government do not intend to seek powers to limit the amount of those precepts in that year. The Government expect town and parish councils to budget prudently to take account of views of local people on how their money is spent.

Local Government: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has assessed the merits of a directly-elected mayoral model for the proposed Greater Manchester Combined Authority. [15540]

Robert Neill: Our policy, as set out in the draft Structural Reform Plan published by my Department on 8 July, is to legislate through the Localism Bill for directly elected mayors to enable the largest 12 cities in England to have mayors from 2012, subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected councillors.

Multiple Occupation

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* registered and *(b)* unregistered houses in multiple occupation (i) nationally and (ii) in Milton Keynes. [15608]

Andrew Stunell: The most recent estimate of the number of licensable houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) is from the Building Research Establishment report published by Communities and Local Government in January 2010. The report estimates that up to about 56,000 HMOs may be subject to mandatory licensing.

There is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide Communities and Local Government with data on the number of licensed and unlicensed HMOs. However, some local authorities voluntarily supply data on the number of licensed HMOs through Communities and Local Government's Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (ROLHMO). A copy of the most recent details of licensed HMOs obtained through this Register, including those of Milton Keynes Council, have been placed in the Library of the House.

The figures are as reported by local authorities to Communities and Local Government. There are concerns about the quality and robustness of the data. Definitive numbers of licensed HMOs are available directly from the registers held by local authorities.

Multiple Occupation: Fires

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of deaths attributable to a fire in an unregistered house in multiple occupation in each of the last five years. [15609]

Robert Neill: Fire incident records have only had the facility of a separate category for households in multiple occupation since the introduction of the Incident Recording System, which went live nationally on 1 April 2009. Fire incident data are currently available to the end of March 2010, hence the numbers of fatalities recorded by Fire and Rescue Service personnel to be in households in multiple occupation by licence status are shown in the table for 2009-10.

Fatalities attributable to fire in households in multiple occupation by licence status, England, 2009-10

License status	*Fatal casualties*
Unlicensed	3
Licensed	5

Source:
Incident Recording System, Communities and Local Government

Renewable Energy: Heating

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether calculation of the carbon footprint of heat pumps for the purposes of *(a)* Building Regulations, *(b)* Standard Assessment Procedure 2009 and *(c)* the Code for Sustainable Homes includes provision for consumption and leakage of hydrofluorocarbons. [15419]

Andrew Stunell: None of the calculations of the carbon footprint of heat pumps for the purposes of the Building Regulations, SAP 2009 or the Code for Sustainable Homes include provision for the consumption and leakage of hydrofluorocarbons.

PRIME MINISTER

Appointments Commission

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Prime Minister how public appointments will be made following the decision to close the Appointments Commission. [15688]

The Prime Minister: Public appointments will continue to be made by Departments on merit following fair and open competition and, where appropriate, in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he has met the chief scientific adviser since 6 May 2010. [15352]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues, officials and others.

Gordon Brown: Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Prime Minister what severance payment was made to *(a)* the right hon. Member for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath (Mr. Brown) and *(b)* each of his special advisers on leaving office after the last general election. [14663]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has signed with Atos to carry out the retesting and transition of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance; what the monetary value of each contract is; and what changes have been made to such arrangements since the present administration took office. [15746]

Chris Grayling: I have given approval for the retesting and transition of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance to be added to the existing medical services contract with Atos Healthcare up to 31 August 2012 at a cost of £59 million. There have been no changes made to such arrangements since the present administration took office.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each English region was in the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12447]

Chris Grayling: Total vehicle expenditure for DWP, Executive agencies and its non-departmental public bodies is provided in the following tables.

Vehicle spot hire

			£
	2007-08[1]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Department for Work and Pensions	433,250	881,544	1,040,971
Jobcentre Plus	552,554	1,241,344	1,384,919
The Pensions, Disability and Carers Service	31,723	60,150	363,473
The Pension Service	310,481	445,235	n/a
The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	n/a	353,466	244,567
Child Support Agency	219,139	n/a	n/a
Health and Safety Executive	214,564	260,286	298,022
Independent Living Fund	2,481	1,514	2,468
Disabled Living Allowance Advisory Board	0	0	0
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	0	0	0
Equality 2005	0	0	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory council	0	0	0
National Employment Savings Trust	0	0	0

Vehicle spot hire

£

	2007-08[1]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Pension Ombudsman/Pension Protection Delivery Fund Ombudsman	0	0	0
Pension Protection Fund	0	0	0
Social Security Advisory Committee	0	0	0
The Pensions Advisory Service	0	0	0
The Pensions Regulator	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

Vehicle lease

£

	2007-08[1]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Department for Work and Pensions	4,139,972	9,772,840	5,153,756
Jobcentre Plus	838,990	406,156	4,673,959
The Pensions, Disability and Carers Service	74,426	72,228	1,607,844
The Pension Service	151,583	50,000	n/a
The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	n/a	42,188	689,076
Child Support Agency	79,850	n/a	n/a
Health and Safety Executive	1,110,178	997,745	899,128
Independent Living Fund	0	2,800	6,923
Disabled Living Allowance Advisory Board	0	0	0
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	0	0	0
Equality 2005	0	0	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory council	0	0	0
National Employment Savings Trust	0	0	0
Pension Ombudsman/Pension Protection Delivery Fund Ombudsman	0	0	0
Pension Protection Fund	0	0	0
Social Security Advisory Committee	0	0	0
The Pensions Advisory Service	0	0	0
The Pensions Regulator	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

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[1] 2007-08 data include the Government Car and Despatch Agency figures as these were not held separately at this time.

[2] The Pensions Regulator do not own any vehicles and only occasionally hire vehicles for essential business travel where it is cost effective to do so. These costs are not separated out in the nominal ledger and would require a disproportionate amount of time to collate.

In relation to planned expenditure for 2010-11, all areas of DWP intend to reduce third party costs against the 2009-10 baseline, either through contract renegotiation, demand management or collaboration with other Departments to generate economies of scale.

The DWP are unable to provide the information by English region as the contracts cover the whole of the UK and DWP would incur disproportionate costs to obtain the data by region.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14928]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

Employment and Support Allowance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what resources his Department has allocated to support the retesting and transition of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance over the next three years. [15747]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is unavailable.

We are planning to evaluate the administrative resource costs to support the retesting and transition of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance over the next three years. Until we have more complete information following national implementation we will be unable to provide a standard administrative resource cost figure, we expect to have this information around the second to third quarter of next year.

Employment Schemes: Washington Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in Washington and Sunderland West constituency were employed under the Recruitment Subsidy scheme in each month since it began; [14296]

(2) whether he plans to put in place measures to prevent any adverse effect on the employment market of the removal of the Recruitment Subsidy; [14297]

(3) what consultation took place with *(a)* employers and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus officials before the removal of the Recruitment Subsidy; [14298]

(4) what impact assessment his Department has undertaken on the effects of the removal of the Recruitment Subsidy. [14299]

Chris Grayling: The recruitment subsidy was part of the six-month offer introduced as a temporary recession measure, by the previous Government, to run from April 2009 to March 2011.

The subsidy was not popular and was poor value for money. From April 2009 until April 2010 only around 34,000 subsidies were claimed yet during this time some 700,000 jobseekers that would have been eligible left jobseekers allowance. Even where the subsidies had been claimed, feedback from employers suggests they have not influenced employer decisions about who to recruit.

The decision to end the subsidy was taken on the basis of the available evidence and experience including that of Jobcentre Plus. Employers in regular contact with Jobcentre Plus were alerted as soon as plans to end the subsidy were announced.

Data on the subsidy are not available at constituency level. An equality impact assessment of the withdrawal of the subsidy has been prepared and will be published shortly.

EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* for most of their time on the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [13778]

Chris Grayling: The EU is relevant to a wide range of policy and operational areas in the Department for Work and Pensions. I estimate that approximately 320 officials work wholly or mainly on EU related matters.

Health and Safety Executive

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the running costs of the Health and Safety Executive were in each of the last five years. [13707]

Chris Grayling: The answer is provided in the table.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Financial year	*Net operating cost (£ million)*
2005-06	239,005
2006-07	233,622
2007-08	215,121
2008-09	220,819
2009-10	229,931

Source:
HSE's Annual Report and Accounts using the "restated" column, i.e. adjusted where necessary, to reflect organisational change and the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards, for comparative purposes.

HSE's budget for 2011-10 to 2014-15 is under review, as are the budgets for all Departments and public bodies, as part of the Spending Review 2010.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people will undergo the incapacity benefit migration process at Aberdeen during the incapacity benefit reassessment trial; and of these how many receive *(a)* short-term (lower) rate, *(b)* short-term (higher) rate and *(c)* long-term rate. [13496]

Chris Grayling: 850 people currently claiming incapacity benefits in Aberdeen and the surrounding areas whose cases are dealt with by Aberdeen Benefit Delivery Centre will be reassessed under the incapacity benefit reassessment trial. These 850 people will be selected from all incapacity benefits customers whose cases are dealt with by Aberdeen Benefit Delivery Centre.

We are unable to say what rate of incapacity benefit these customers receive as we have not yet selected the customers to be reassessed under the Aberdeen reassessment trial.

Customers will be selected for the trial if they are due to have a personal capability assessment as a part of their ongoing incapacity benefits claim. Some customers, such as those reaching state pension age before March 2014, will be excluded from the reassessment; others may move off incapacity benefits before the reassessment trial begins in October.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated average time will be to process incapacity benefit reassessments being trialled at Aberdeen; and what the average processing time was in Aberdeen in the latest period for which figures are available. [13497]

Chris Grayling: After an initial award of ESA has been made, the customer is sent an ESA50 medical questionnaire, which they have 28 days to complete. The customer is then invited to a work capability assessment at a medical examination centre. This takes place within the first 13 weeks of the claim. After the customer has attended the work capability assessment, a Jobcentre Plus decision maker decides whether they are fit for work and therefore not entitled to ESA, entitled to the work related activity component of ESA, or entitled to the support component of ESA. From the date the ESA50 is issued to the final decision being made takes on average 42 days.

The target time for reassessment of incapacity benefits customers during the Aberdeen reassessment trial is 42 days. This period runs from the date the ESA50 is issued to the customer to date of the decision to find the customer fit for work, entitled to the work related activity component, or entitled to the support component.

Before the ESA50 is issued, the customer will be telephoned by a member of staff from Jobcentre Plus to give information and advice about the reassessment process. This contact is not included in the target of 42 days for the reassessment process.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all incapacity benefit claimants will be asked to undergo a medical examination as part of the reassessment programme being trialled in Aberdeen. [13498]

Chris Grayling: Beginning with the trial in the Aberdeen and Burnley areas, customers who currently receive incapacity benefits will be reassessed to determine entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA).

Those customers who are the most severely disabled or who are terminally ill will automatically be considered to have limited capability for work. Conditions which mean a customer will be automatically considered to have limited capability for work include:

terminal illness with a reasonable expectation of death within six months;

receiving or recovering from certain forms of chemotherapy;

pregnancy, where there is risk of harm to mother or child.

These customers will not need to attend a work capability assessment to determine their entitlement.

For customers who do not fulfil these conditions, entitlement to ESA is determined by a work capability assessment. Customers will be sent a medical questionnaire, the ESA50, by Atos Healthcare (our health services contractor) to complete and return. The contents of the ESA50 and any other evidence will be used to decide if the customer needs to attend a work capability assessment. If they need to attend an assessment, Atos Healthcare will call them to arrange an appointment. The work capability assessment is the main assessment for employment and support allowance. The assessment will concentrate on what people can do, rather than only focussing on what they can't.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people Jobcentre Plus has employed *(a)* in total, *(b)* on fixed-term contracts and *(c)* on permanent contracts in each month since January 2010; [13391]

(2) how many Jobcentre Plus staff have *(a)* not had a fixed-term contract renewed and *(b)* been made redundant in each month since January 2010. [13392]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many people Jobcentre Plus has employed (a) in total, (b) on fixed-term contracts and (c) on permanent contracts in each month since January 2010; and how many Jobcentre Plus staff have (a) not had a fixed-term contract renewed and (b) been made redundant in each month since January 2010. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below sets out the numbers employed in Jobcentre Plus in each month since January 2010 to March 2010, which is the latest point for which staffing data are published, broken down by permanent and fixed term contracts. Numbers quoted are in Full Time Equivalents.

Contract Type	*January 2010*	*February 2010*	*March 2010*
Permanent	69,137	68,890	69,023
Fixed-term	14,755	14,302	13,624
Total staff	83,892	83,192	82,647

The increase in permanent headcount between February and March reflects the inward transfer of 316 full time equivalent staff from the Pensions, Disability and Carer's Service.

No Jobcentre Plus staff have been made redundant since January 2010.

The table below gives details of the number of people on Fixed Term Appointments (FTAs) that have not had their contracts renewed for each month since January 2010 to March 2010.

Please note that this will include some people who have already had their contract end date extended, but then leave on their new contract end date without further extension. The figures exclude people that have left before the end of their contract for various reasons, such as dismissal for poor performance and resignation.

Numbers quoted are in Full Time Equivalents.

	January 2010	*February 2010*	*March 2010*
Number of people on fixed term appointments leaving when contracts end.	34	24	253

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Overtime

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hours of overtime were recorded by Jobcentre Plus staff in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* nationally in each of the last 12 months. [14088]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many hours of overtime were recorded by Jobcentre Plus staff in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* nationally in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table shows for the South West region and Jobcentre Plus as a whole the number of hours overtime paid between April 2009 and March 2010. This is the latest 12 month period for which staffing data have been published. This information has been extracted from the DWP Resource Management system.

Month	*Total Jobcentre Plus*	*South West*
Apr-09	187,662	13,856
May-09	217,312	15,434
Jun-09	211,925	14,715
Jul-09	266,557	17,964
Aug-09	208,149	13,421
Sep-09	208,520	13,938
Oct-09	196,685	13,695
Nov-09	168,963	10,403
Dec-09	143,974	8,520
Jan-10	96,482	6,199
Feb-10	143,815	6,986
Mar-10	134,280	4,741

Members: Correspondence

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 16 July 2010 from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on her constituent, Mr Fraser of Turriff. [15449]

Chris Grayling: I replied to the hon. Member on 14 September 2010.

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what security information is required of hon. and right hon. Members and their caseworkers when making telephone inquiries to his Department and its agencies on behalf of their constituents. [15680]

Steve Webb: The Department is required by the Data Protection Act to implement appropriate security controls so as to protect personal data.

Therefore when any telephone inquiry is made by a third party (including elected Members of this House or their staff seeking to assist constituents), officials are required to obtain identification details about the inquirer and the individual who is the subject of the inquiry. When the call is returned, DWP employees will further validate the identity of the inquirer. This is so as to satisfy the Department that the representative's credentials can be confirmed, that the consent of the individual has been obtained, and that the inquiry is legitimate.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he intends to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hartlepool of 26 July 2010 on the case of Ms Vivienne Gilman. [15680]

Chris Grayling: The Jobcentre Plus Human Resources Director replied to the hon. Member on behalf of the Secretary of State on 14 September 2010.

Pensions: Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the estimated average weekly income is of those receiving state pension entitlements in Washington and Sunderland West constituency; [14574]

(2) how many people receive state pension entitlements in Washington and Sunderland West constituency. [14575]

Steve Webb: Information on the average total weekly income of those receiving state pension entitlements is not available at regional level. However, the average weekly state pension amount paid to recipients in Washington and Sunderland West constituency is £106.38.

The document 'Caseloads for selected benefits by 2010 Parliamentary Constituencies, February 2010' is available in the Library and includes figures for state pension.

Note:

Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

Average weekly amount—DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study—February 2010.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether, under his proposals for medical examinations for claimants of disability benefits, evidence will be accepted from the claimant's *(a)* occupational therapist, *(b)* speech therapist, *(c)* physiotherapist, *(d)* orthopaedic consultant and *(e)* any other relevant therapist or consultant at relevant hearings; [15657]

(2) whether, under his proposals for medical examinations for claimants of disability benefits, where claimants are unable to communicate their answers to questions, their carer or guardian will be allowed to do so on their behalf; [15676]

(3) what provisions will be in place under his proposals for medical examinations for claimants of disability benefits for exemptions relating to claimants who have been profoundly disabled from birth and who have no expectation of improvement in their condition; [15677]

(4) whether, under his proposals for medical examinations for claimants of disability benefits, claimants will be allowed to be accompanied by their carers, doctors or another care professional familiar to them at the examination. [15678]

Maria Miller: In response to the Member's questions, this answer separately references both disability living allowance (DLA) and the employment and support allowance.

First with respect to DLA, the Chancellor announced in the Emergency Budget that the Government will introduce a new, objective assessment for DLA from 2013-14. The new assessment will be transparent, objective and simple.

The Department is currently in the process of developing options for the new assessment in consultation with an independent group of experts comprising of disabled people, relevant health professionals and others with expertise in this area. As part of this process we will consider what evidence will be required to support that new assessment and how that evidence will be gathered.

We will begin a consultation process on our plans to reform DLA, Later this year, ensuring disabled people and representative organisations are involved.

With regard to the employment and support allowance and the associated work capability assessment (WCA), that assesses entitlement to the benefit, we will continue with the current practice of carrying out medical assessments for the purpose of determining entitlement to the benefit. The Government have a statutory commitment to carry out an independent review of the WCA every year for the first five years of operation.

Any evidence provided by either the customer, their representatives or healthcare professional will be given consideration and will be taken into account as part of the decision making process. Additionally, a customer is welcome to bring a representative of their choice to their medical assessment. There are also existing arrangements for a third person to claim and act for a customer who is unable to act or communicate on their own behalf. Medical assessments will continue to take account of the severity of a customer's condition or disablement, as well as the expectation of improvement or a worsening of that condition.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value is of each benefit paid by his Department which is now to be uprated with reference to the consumer price index; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of each in 2014-15 *(a)* with and *(b)* without the change in uprating method. [15455]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 392W.

Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies take into account rolling resistance as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres. [13549]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) DWP

The DWP does not itself consider rolling resistance as a specific performance criterion, but this criterion is taken into consideration within the procurement procedure for new vehicles and for tyre replacements. This procedure also applies to the DWP's agencies:

Jobcentre Plus

The Pensions, Disability and Carers Service

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

(b) DWP non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)

The Health and Safety Executive does not take into account rolling resistance as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres. All other NDPBs do not purchase tyres.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity Generation: Local Authorities

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to enable local authorities to generate electricity and sell it to the National Grid. [15510]

Charles Hendry: Many local authorities are keen to take forward renewable energy projects. New regulations introduced on 18 August mean that local authorities can now sell electricity and can also benefit from renewables incentives, such as feed-in-tariffs and the renewables obligation.

This new provision gives them the freedom to do so, enabling them to play their part in reducing emissions and meeting national renewable energy targets while also saving money on their energy bills.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has allocated to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for 2010-11. [15516]

Charles Hendry: Nuclear decommissioning is one of the most important priorities for my Department and we are determined that the Government must show the moral and political leadership to address this issue.

The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07) settlement provided the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) with £1.7 billion direct Government funding for 2010-11.

Carbon Emissions: Local Government

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of local authorities on their role in achieving the carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. [15512]

Gregory Barker: Becoming the greenest Government ever will involve close cooperation between all levels of Government to achieve emissions reductions. Local authorities have a critical role in showing strong leadership and accountability in cutting emissions.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State recently invited local authorities to outline how they see local and central government working together. Since then DECC officials have had regular meetings with Local Government Association officials to discuss and develop this offer. We are also working with thirty local authorities taking forward the local carbon frameworks programme.

Carbon Sequestration

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to promote the development of carbon capture and storage technologies internationally. [15529]

Charles Hendry: The UK plays an active role in promoting the development of CCS technologies internationally. Most recently, in July 2010 the Secretary of State launched a new Carbon Capture-Use and Storage Action Group at the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington DC, which will develop recommendations on overcoming barriers to CCS deployment-globally.

The UK is involved in a number of key multilateral initiatives aimed at driving the development and deployment of CCS. These include the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, for which we hosted the ministerial meeting in 2009, the Global CCS Institute, International Energy Agency bodies, the EU Zero Emissions Programme and the North Sea Basin Task Force.

The UK also collaborates with a range of countries to build capacity and understanding of CCS, including the US, China, South Africa and Indonesia. This includes support of the EU-China Near Zero Emissions Coal project.

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to promote the development of carbon capture and storage technologies internationally. [15720]

Charles Hendry: The UK plays an active role in promoting the development of CCS technologies internationally. Most recently, in July 2010 the Secretary of State launched a new Carbon Capture Use and Storage-Action Group at the Clean-Energy Ministerial in Washington DC, which will develop recommendations on overcoming barriers to CCS deployment globally.

The UK is involved in a number of key multilateral initiatives aimed at driving the development and deployment of CCS. These include the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, for which we hosted the ministerial meeting in 2009, the Global CCS Institute, International Energy Agency bodies, the EU Zero Emissions Programme and the North Sea Basin Task Force.

The UK also collaborates with a range of countries to build capacity and understanding of CCS, including the US, China, South Africa and Indonesia. This includes support of the EU-China Near Zero Emissions Coal project.

Committee on Climate Change

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to respond to the Committee on Climate Change's second annual report. [15528]

Gregory Barker: The Government will be responding to the Committee on Climate Change's second annual progress report no later than 15 October 2010 as required under section 37 of the Climate Change Act 2008.

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13938]

Gregory Barker: The number of payments' made to suppliers by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental public bodies in July 2010 are as follows:

		Invoices paid within 30 days		*Invoices paid over 30 days*		*Invoices paid over 60 days*		*Invoices paid over 90 days*	
Organisation	*Total number of invoices*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	771	666	86.4	46	6	18	2.3	41	5.3
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)	693	580	83.7	44	6.3	33	4.8	36	5.2
Committee on Climate Change (CCC)	84	84	100	—	—	—	—	—	
Coal Authority (CA)[1]	727	727	100	—	—	—	—	—	
Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA)	949	807	85	89	9.4	20	2.1	33	3.5

[1] Coal Authority are in legal dispute over one invoice payable in July 2010, which has not been paid yet.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce the costs to the public purse of nuclear decommissioning. [15470]

Charles Hendry: In respect of nuclear new build, the provisions set out in Part 3, Chapter 1 of the Energy Act 2008 ("Nuclear Sites: Decommissioning and Clean-up") are designed to ensure that the private sector meets the full cost of decommissioning and their full share of waste management costs.

In respect of sites owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), these are in the public sector and the costs of decommissioning them are therefore met fully from the public purse, from a mixture of commercial income and direct government funding. The NDA was established to bring renewed vigour to decommissioning, using competitions for the management of its sites to drive efficiency and innovation. Together with maximising profits from its commercial operations, this ensures that the cost to the public purse of the mission is kept to the minimum necessary and delivers value for money. The NDA is also actively reducing its own management and administrative costs, through an ongoing organisational effectiveness review.

Oils: EU Law

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the cost to *(a)* householders and *(b)* the economy of modifications to machinery, engines and oil tanks consequent upon achieving compliance with the increased requirements for the fatty acid methyl ester content of gas oil set in the EU directives on renewable energy and fuel quality. [15420]

Gregory Barker: Neither the renewable energy directive (RED) nor fuel quality directive (FQD) explicitly require that fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) be included in gas oil. However, the directives do require an increase in use of biofuel and a reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of fuels used in transport and non-road mobile machinery. The Department for Transport is carrying out research which will be looking in detail at the barriers associated with increased deployment of all types of biofuels, including infrastructure costs and vehicle capability issues. DFT will be consulting soon on proposals to implement the RED and FQD, which will include draft impact assessments.

Fuel containing FAME has a higher risk of outbreaks of bacterial growth and it is important that good housekeeping practices are adhered to in the storage of fuel, in particular ensuring fuel storage tanks are free from water. DFT is currently discussing the costs of fuel storage tank cleaning/water removal with stakeholders.

The consultation introducing sustainability criteria for bioliquids into the renewables obligation (RO) as required by the renewables energy directive (RED) proposes that fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) should be eligible for support. Work is ongoing to develop costs of this change and will be considered as part of the proposed banding review to determine future levels of support.

As part of the consultation on the RHI last February, the costs of all technologies for which a tariff was proposed were assessed.

Renewable Energy: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of renewable energy generation he has informed the EU will be provided for by the generation of renewable heat from the injection of biomethane into the grid under the terms of Article 4 of the EU renewable energy directive. [13446]

Charles Hendry: The UK's National Renewable Energy Action Plan, based on the 2009 Renewable Energy Strategy and submitted to the European Commission in July 2010, estimated that by 2020 biomethane injection into the gas grid could account for around 1.5% of all renewable energy (that is, heat, electricity and transport biofuels).

This "lead scenario" provides one view of the technology mix in 2020. It does not represent a target, nor should it be seen as an upper limit to the UK's ambition. Indeed "The Coalition: our programme for government" commits to promoting a huge increase in energy from waste using anaerobic digestion.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when an announcement will be made on the timing of the commencement of the renewable heat incentive. [15395]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 14 September 2010]*: As set out in the Annual Energy Statement 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 867-869, the Government are fully committed to taking action on renewable heat. We are considering responses to the Renewable Heat Incentive consultation and will set out detailed proposals on how to take forward action on renewable heat through the spending review.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date his Department plans to issue its response to the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study. [15242]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: We expect to announce the conclusions of the study shortly.

Wind Power: Offshore Industry

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to take steps to provide support to the offshore wind industry to replace that previously provided through regional development agencies. [13966]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Our proposals are for restructuring the delivery landscape for economic development. Replacing the regional development agencies (RDAs) with local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) will ensure that these partnerships better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas that they serve. Reorganising the delivery of economic development will ensure a focused targeted delivery of policy in areas where it can have the most benefit, allowing those locations which stand to benefit most from offshore wind to focus their attention on supporting the industry.

We are currently considering proposals for LEPs, which were submitted in early September. In the meantime, we are working closely with the RDA network during the transition to minimise the impact on priority programmes including those supporting the offshore wind industry. Growing the offshore wind industry remains a priority for this government and we will act to ensure that both inward investment and domestic firms wishing to move into this area continue to be supported.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for offshore wind site development as part of the spending review. [15499]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is in discussion with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer concerning the whole of the Department of Energy and Climate Change budget. Decisions will be announced after the 20 October.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Internally Displaced Persons

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects on internally-displaced people in eastern Burma of the reduction in the level of cross-border aid by the Thailand Burma Border Consortium. [15425]

Mr Duncan: The Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) has indicated that the reduction in its budget for cross-border food aid this year will affect approximately 8,000 internally displaced people in Burma.

The Department for International Development's (DFID's) financial contribution to TBBC has expanded significantly in recent years and now stands at £1.1 million annually. This funding is used to provide assistance to refugees in Thailand and people displaced by conflict inside Burma.

In November 2010, DFID will host TBBC's annual Donor Meeting which will consider the Consortium's budget for 2011.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [14936]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State hosted the Department for International Development (DFID) Stakeholder Reception and Launch of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) UK Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review on 8 July. £306 was spent on non-alcoholic beverages for this event.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15407]

Mr Duncan: The value of severance payments made to the outgoing ministerial team after the last general election was £37,646. Severance payments were made in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

The two special advisers received payment in lieu of notice of one quarter of their annual salary, as laid out in their contract of employment with the Department for International Development (DFID). The total value of the payments was in the range £25,000 to £29,999.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal on maternal health, with specific reference to training *(a)* midwives, *(b)* obstetricians and *(c)* other relevant healthcare workers. [13458]

Mr Duncan: Improving maternal health is a major priority for the coalition Government and we will be supporting the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health at the forthcoming UN summit.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to provide emergency obstetric care training to midwives and doctors in five target countries. By March 2012, it is expected that 1,400 additional national trainers will be available to improve capacity to deliver improved maternal and newborn health services.

DFID also funds training for midwives, obstetricians and other health care workers through various channels. This includes direct support to national health sector plans of partner countries, and support to multilateral organisations such as the World Bank; and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM).

DFID is currently developing a new Health Partnership Scheme to enable UK based health workers to support human resources training in partner countries.

EDUCATION

Academies: Freedom of Information

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons academies are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [8620]

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to make academy schools subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [11456]

Mr Gibb: Academies are currently not subject to the provision of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. However, the Academies Act 2010 includes a provision that extends the FOI Act to academy trusts. The FOI Act applies to academy trusts of maintained schools converting to academies from September 2010 and to academy trusts of existing academies from January 2011.

Academies: Governing Bodies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether new academy school governing bodies will have powers to alter their articles of association to remove categories of governors from the governing body. [9104]

Mr Gibb: The converting school will be required to set up a new charitable company limited by guarantee, the Academy Trust. The Academy Trust will be required to comply with and adopt DFE's model Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Articles of Association set out the requirements for both the appointment of and the constitution of both the members and directors/governors of the Academy Trust. The Articles of Association can only be amended with the consent of the Secretary of State. Subject to receiving such consent, then it is for the members of the Academy Trust (not the governors) to amend the Articles of Association.

All Saints Academy Dunstable

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when a decision will be taken on funding for the new building for All Saints Academy, Dunstable; and if he will make a statement. [9039]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Government announced on 6 August that the building work for All Saints Academy, Central Bedfordshire, will continue as planned.

Apprentices

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* level 2, *(b)* level 3 and *(c)* level 4 apprenticeships in each subject are available in educational institutions in each constituency for academic year 2010-11. [13945]

Mr Gibb: The number and level of apprenticeships available by training provider and constituency are not currently published. Aggregate information on the number of apprentice starts by level is published regularly through Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Statistical First Releases (SFR) as is information by apprenticeship framework and information by parliamentary constituency. The latest full year data are available for the 2008/09 academic year and provisional in-year data for 2009/10. The latest SFR and supplementary tables are available at.

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his review of Building Schools for the Future programme will be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [2157]

Mr Gibb: The Capital Review team is working to provide advice by September for use in the comprehensive spending review, and complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the Building Schools for the Future programmes at *(a)* Babington Community Technology College, *(b)* English Martyrs Catholic School, *(c)* Fullhurst Community College, *(d)* New College, Leicester, *(e)* Ellesmere College (Special Education Needs) and *(f)* West Gate School (Special Education Needs). [3460]

Mr Gibb: Babington community technology college, English Martyrs Catholic schools, Fullhurst community college, New college, Leicester, Ellesmere college, (special education needs) and West Gate school (special education needs) are unaffected by the Secretary of State's 5 July announcement on Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and will continue to be funded via BSF.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on schools in Coventry of his decisions on the Building Schools for the Future programme; [8161]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings made in Coventry South constituency consequent on his decisions on the Building Schools for the Future programme; [8162]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of jobs in the construction industry in the West Midlands of his decisions on the Building Schools for the Future programme; [8164]

(4) what factors he took into account in making his decisions on the Building Schools for the Future programme in respect of projects in Coventry South constituency which were close to financial close. [8165]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2010]:* On 5 July, the Secretary of State announced the end of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. In local authority areas where financial close has been reached, the initial BSF projects are continuing, as are repeat projects which had outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. In a local authority area where financial close has not been reached but where very significant work has been undertaken, to the point of appointing a preferred bidder at close of dialogue, sample projects (the first due to be taken forward) are also continuing. The school-by-school impact of this decision in Coventry and the value of each school's project are set out in the table.

The decision on BSF has not been taken lightly. The Secretary of State is seeking to secure best value for the taxpayer, while recognising existing contractual commitments. This decision will have an impact on schools and on the construction industry, but this is not the end of capital investment in schools. The Secretary of State announced on 5 July a review of all capital expenditure by the Department for Education. This review will conclude by the end of 2010. Its outcome will help to determine the way in which future capital funding will be invested by the Department.

School	*Status*	*Allocated cap (ex) (£)*[1]
Sidney Stringer	Open September 2010	28,361,344
Barr's Hill	Stopped	28,389,716
Caludon Castle school	Stopped	2,170,650
Coundon Court	Stopped	25,271,421
Ernesford Grange and Broad Spectrum (EG)	Stopped	40,298,662
Finham Park	Stopped	38,205,162
Foxford	Stopped	18,373,087
Lyng Hall	Stopped	10,520,425
President Kennedy and Broad Spectrum (PK)	Stopped	52,846,299
Stoke Park	Stopped	12,793,496
Tile Hill Wood	Stopped	37,238,710
Westwood	Stopped	11,587,441
Whitley Abbey	Stopped	7,658,907
The Woodlands	Stopped	24,976,033
The Woodfield	Stopped	21,795,751
Bishop Ullathorne RC	Stopped	20,787,707
Cardinal Newman School and Corley	Stopped	46,604,865
Cardinal Wiseman RC	Stopped	16,541,608
Blue Coat CofE	Stopped	11,487,320
Total	—	455,908,604

[1] Please note that these schemes would have been delivered through a mixture of design and build and PFI.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for which school building projects in wave 5 of the Building Schools for the Future programme the outline business case was approved after 1 January 2010. [9355]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The following table sets out the building projects in Wave 5 of the BSF programme where the Outline Business Case was approved after 1 January 2010.

Local authority	*OBC position*
Nottingham City	OBC submitted and approved
Waltham Forest	OBC submitted and approved
RB Kensington and Chelsea	OBC submitted and approved
Newham	OBC submitted and approved
North East Lincolnshire	OBC submitted and approved

The schools affected are listed in publicly available documents at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/press-notices-new/bsf-sample-schools

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans there are for the Building Schools for the Future projects at *(a)* Accrington St Christopher's CE High School, *(b)* Alder Grange Community and Technology School, *(c)* Whitworth High School, *(d)* Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School, *(e)* The Hollins Technology College, *(f)* Fearns Community Sports College and *(g)* All Saints Catholic Language College. [10547]

Mr Gibb: The schools listed above were identified in Lancashire local authority's next wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) investment. As this wave of schools was not formally in the programme at the time of the Secretary of State's announcement on 5 July to halt BSF, they will not continue under BSF.

The Department has commissioned a comprehensive review of all of its existing capital expenditure to inform decisions about future capital investment. This will include investment in schools that were not prioritised for funding under the BSF programme including those listed above. The review team will provide an interim report in the autumn and a final report by the end of the year.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Consultants

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the average amount paid to consultants in respect of each Building Schools for the Future project. [8753]

Mr Gibb: The National Audit Office report 'The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme: Renewing the secondary school estate' (HC 135 Session 2008-2009 12 February 2009) estimated that for the first 15 local education partnerships (LEPs) the combined total cost of the local authority's (LA) and the winning bidder's staff time, consultants and legal costs averaged between £9 and £10 million. This total combined cost covers the costs of designing the first few schools, procuring a private sector partner (the LA's staff and consultancy costs) and legal costs associated with setting up the LEP. One individual consultant received £1.35 million in consultancy fees.

This is the best available estimate as there is no central collection of data on costs of consultants.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what objectives have been set for the outcome of the private finance initiative project proposed for Swiss Cottage School; [7869]

(2) with whom he is discussing a private finance initiative project for *(a)* UCL Camden Academy and *(b)* Swiss Cottage School; and what objectives he has set for the outcome of those discussions. [7872]

Mr Gibb: On 6 August, the Secretary of State announced that the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) 'sample projects' including Swiss Cottage School, and selected academies, including UCL Camden Academy, would continue to be funded as part of the BSF programme. His decisions on academy projects were informed by discussions between departmental officials and academy sponsors.

The objectives for the individual schemes in BSF projects are set by the local authority, in this case the London borough of Camden. These are reviewed by Partnerships for Schools in the final business case, which is due to be submitted later this year.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Wandsworth

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) on how many occasions officials or Ministers in the Department for Children, Schools and Families met with Wandsworth borough council officers or councillors to discuss Building Schools for the Future projects in Wandsworth prior to 7 May; and how many such meetings were missed or cancelled by Wandsworth; [8724]

(2) on how many occasions officials of his Department have met Wandsworth borough council officers or councillors to discuss Building Schools for the Future projects in the borough since 7 May 2010; [8725]

(3) which deadlines for *(a)* reports, *(b)* funding applications and *(c)* provision of other documents in respect of the Building Schools for the Future programme in its area the London borough of Wandsworth has (i) met and (ii) not met since the programme's inception. [8755]

Mr Gibb: As part of its role as the delivery agent for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Partnerships for Schools meets with Wandsworth borough council officers on a regular basis to discuss BSF projects. Since 7 May 2010, there were two close of dialogue meetings, one formal project board meeting and one meeting to discuss sample schools. Members of Parliament and councillors for Wandsworth met Lord Hill of Oareford and departmental officials on Friday, 23 July to discuss Wandsworth's BSF projects.

All BSF project milestones have been reached. There was some delay to the original deadline for the Strategy for Change 2 documentation however milestone dates and deadlines recalibrated from that date have been met or exceeded. No partnerships for schools meetings with the local authority were cancelled or missed by either party.

CAFCASS

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much was paid by *(a)* the Children and Family Court and Advisory Service (CAFCASS) England and *(b)* CAFCASS Cymru to self employed contractors in family cases, (i) in total and (ii) for travel expenses in each year from 2002 to 2010; and if he will make a statement; [13196]

(2) what information his Department holds on the average number of years of post-qualification childcare social work experience of *(a)* children's guardians employed by the Children and Family Court and Advisory Service (CAFCASS), *(b)* self-employed contractors employed by CAFCASS and *(c)* independent social workers acting as expert witnesses in family proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [13197]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold this information. I have asked Anthony Douglas, chief executive of CAFCASS, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 6 September 2010:

I am writing to you in response to Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently:

To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the average number of years of post-qualification childcare social work experience of (a) children's guardians employed by the Children and Family Court and Advisory Service (CAFCASS), (b) self-employed contractors employed by CAFCASS and (c) independent social workers acting as expert witnesses in family proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [13197]

The average length of post qualifying experience in Social work (Child related) within Cafcass is 9.17 years. This is based on the length of service within Cafcass plus the requisite 3 years post qualifying social work experience needed to become a Cafcass practitioner. The minimum 3 years post qualification rule is strictly applied and most practitioners join Cafcass with approximately 5 years post qualifying experience.

It is difficult to provide a precise figure given the nature and deployment of self employed contractors. We can evidence that every contractor goes through the same pre-employment checks as permanent staff including the post qualification experience (no less than three years required). From this we can confirm that all self employed contractors (currently around 350 available for use) have a least three years post qualification experience in child related social work.

Cafcass does not collect information for independent social workers acting as expert witnesses in family proceedings.

To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid by (a) the Children and Family Court and Advisory Service (CAFCASS) England and (b) CAFCASS Cymru to self employed contractors in family cases, (i) in total and (ii) for travel expenses in each year from 2002 to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [13196]

Please find below a table showing the total paid by Cafcass England to self employed contractors in each year from 2001/02.

Self employed contractors are responsible for meeting travel, office and all other expenses related to their work; therefore Cafcass does not collect this information.

Year	*Total spent on self employed contractors (£ million)*
2009/10	13.077
2008/09	10.062
2007/08	8.877
2006/07	9.730
2005/06	11.736
2004/05	12.837
2003/04	13.157
2002/03	11.738
2001/02	17.546

Children in Care: Immigrants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children of failed asylum seekers or illegal immigrants have been taken into care because their parents have absconded in each of the last two years; and how many of these children have subsequently been reunited with their families. [13220]

Tim Loughton: Information on the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children entering care is collected and published annually, but this does not include a breakdown of whether they came into the country alone or their parents absconded and abandoned them.

Children: Databases

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Government plans to replace ContactPoint. [11460]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement issued on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS.

We are exploring the practicality of an alternative national signposting service which would help practitioners find out whether a colleague elsewhere is working, or has previously worked, with the same vulnerable child. The approach would particularly take account of the needs of children who move between local authority areas or who access services in more than one local authority. Social workers in particular, and potentially other key services like the police or accident and emergency departments, may need this information very quickly and any new approach would seek to strengthen communication between these areas.

Critical to the success of any new service must be that it provides a modern, effective tool that supports the frontline and supports the broader aims of Eileen Munro's review to improve child protection and social work practice. It is also important that we keep the information held on any new service to the minimum necessary to allow effective identification of the individuals involved. We would also seek to keep development and implementation costs to a minimum and deliver a service that can demonstrate greater value for money than ContactPoint. We will continue to draw on the views, experience and expertise of frontline staff and managers to assess the feasibility and affordability of such an approach.

Children: Deaths

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether local safeguarding children boards have a duty to investigate all unexpected sudden child deaths related to *(a)* asthma and *(b)* allergy and to share their findings with relevant health and other professionals. [12088]

Tim Loughton: In accordance with the Children Act 2004, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are required to review the deaths of all children in their area. The reviewing of all deaths became mandatory in April 2008, although LSCBs have been able to do this since 2006.

The statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)" sets out the process by which the Child Death Overview Panel, set up under the auspices of the LSCB, reviews child deaths to identify lessons and make recommendations so that prompt actions might be taken to prevent future such deaths where possible.

The LSCB has responsibility for disseminating the lessons to be learnt to all relevant organisations, in order for these organisations to act on any recommendations to improve policy, professional practice and inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in their area.

Children: Protection

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many families with children on the child protection register are housed in the private rented sector. [10022]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Children: Social Services

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he expects the Government to meet its target of ensuring local authorities implement the sufficiency guidance relating to the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 by April 2011. [13225]

Tim Loughton: The "sufficiency duty" requires all local authorities and their partners to be in a position to secure, where reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for looked after children in their local authority area. Local authorities are expected to have a local strategic plan for meeting the identified needs of looked after children in their area. There is no national or local target attached to the duty.

I am however considering ways of corresponding with all local authorities shortly to make sure they are up to speed with their plans.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) his Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which his Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12350]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has sold:

(a) four buildings since May 2005

Building	*Date sold*	*Sale price (£)*
Ipswich Skill Centre Annexe	10 June 2005	100,000
Middlesbrough Skill Centre Annexe	29 July 2008	778,000
File Store Wales Bar, Sheffield	5 December 2008	890,000
Moorfoot, Sheffield	30 July 2010	3,000,000

(b) The Department has not sold any land.

In all cases the money was retained by the Department but the Treasury reduced the cash allocation by the same amount.

(ii) (B) The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) has sold:

(a) one building since May 2005

Building	*Date sold*	*Sale price (£)*
Ringway House, Preston	12 December 2006	1,300,000

(b) Ofsted has not sold any land.

Ofsted retained £600,000, but their capital allocation was reduced by this amount, and paid £700,000 to Treasury as a Consolidated Fund Extra Receipt.

(ii) (A) The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) has sold:

(a) three buildings since May 2005

Building	*Date sold*	*Sale price (£)*
Darwen Health Centre, Blackburn	2005-06	75,014
90 Finkle Street, Cottingham	2005-06	154,980
109 Dixon's Green Road	2007-08	88,947

(b) two parcels of land

	Date sold	*Sale price (£)*
90 Finkle Street, Cottingham	2005-06	36,297
109 Dixon's Green Road	2007-08	41,053

CAFCASS retained the sales proceeds.

It is not possible to give current prices without incurring disproportionate costs of engaging surveyors to value the properties now.

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much office space per employee his Department and its predecessors occupied in each year since 1997. [13011]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has occupied the following space per employee since 2007. Information prior to this date is not available.

	Total NIA (M^2)	*FTE*	*M^2 per FTE*
2009-10	44,018	3,048	14.4
2008-09	44,273	3,306	13.4
2007-08	68,681	5,010	13.7

Space occupied per person is expected to significantly reduce in 2010-11 as a consequence of the Department disposing of its largest building (Moorfoot in Sheffield) and acquiring a far smaller building as part of its estates rationalisation programme. This will reduce the Departments occupied space by 7,119 square metres and more than double the density of occupied space in Sheffield.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department has been since its inception. [12660]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not keep a record of the daily rates paid to individual consultants, and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13030]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has spent the monies shown in the table on vacant properties over the last five years.

	£
2005-06	633,465
2006-07	713,034
2007-08	837,109
2008-09	342,856
2009-10	394,693

Information prior to 2005 is not readily available and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each region of England was in the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12439]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was created on 12 May 2010 as a result of the machinery of government changes. Prior to this it was the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) which was created in June 2007, and before this it was the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The Department has not owned nor sold vehicles since 2005. There is no planned expenditure for 2010-11.

The Department holds no figures for non-departmental public bodies nor executive agencies.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department to date. [9603]

Tim Loughton: The Department embarked on shared service arrangements which saw us outsourcing our back office transaction processing to DWP and beginning to use their Oracle Resource Management (RM) system to facilitate improvements in our working practices and generate savings of £8 million per year.

The RM system enables the Department for Education (DfE) staff to carry out many more finance, procurement and HR tasks on-line, and this has resulted in both a substantial reduction in the size of the Department's central functions (and therefore a net reduction in costs) and improvements in the speed and quality of our corporate services provision.

This work is clearly a significant foundation in our drive towards greater efficiency which will over time allow us to focus on achieving our aim of providing world class services to children, schools and families within a tighter fiscal regime.

In addition the Department has rationalised our property usage and holdings, including moving our Sheffield operations into smaller, more efficient (and cheaper to run) buildings and increasing the density of use of the London and Runcorn buildings (by sharing the space with OGDs and arm's length bodies).

We have implemented policies across the Department to reduce costs still further, for example in areas such as travel (where the DfE board has made a commitment to travel standard class, and encouraged all staff to travel standard class. In addition the board has asked staff to review the need to travel for meetings rather than utilising other communication media.

DfE is also working with the Department for Transport and its Government car and despatch agency to effect the transition to new arrangements detailed in the Ministerial Code published 21 May 2010 to reduce the number of ministerial cars within the Department.

In addition, the Department is reviewing its consultancy, procurement and marketing policies to identify other potential savings.

Departmental Pay

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid in remuneration in total to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [9895]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was created on 12 May 2010. In the predecessor Department for Children, Schools and Families, £135 million was paid as remuneration to civil servants in 2009-10. This includes pay, employer pension contributions and national insurance payments, as well as any taxable benefits and non-consolidated performance related payments.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each of the English regions in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12437]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education (DfE) was created on 12 May 2010 and pension contributions for the financial year 2010-11 are estimated to be £20 million. In the predecessor Departments: Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF 2007-10) and Department for Education and Skills (DfES part 2007) the pensions contributions for the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 were £19.4 million, £19 million and £20.8 million respectively.

There are no Executive Agencies in DfE or in the predecessor DCSF and DfES and pension contribution information on the various NDPBs reporting to the three Departments between 2007-08 and 2010-11 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was paid by his Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12351]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education paid rent on properties as follows:

(a) total:

	£
2005-06	25,721,925
2006-07	25,352,250
2007-08	21,397,144
2008-09	20,853,246
2009-10	18,082,342

(b) each (i) region:

					£
	Yorkshire and Humberside	*North West*	*West Midlands*	*South East*	*East of England*
2005-06	440,418	107,277	329,705	177,719	76,875
2006-07	440,418	107,277	329,705	177,719	76,875
2007-08	434,871	107,277	329,705	71,088	76,875
2008-09	337,137	106,707	327,951	0	75,472
2009-10	255,053	104,844	323,334	0	74,261

(ii) nation of the UK:

The Department for Education only has properties in England therefore the figures under *(a)* total, apply.

(c) London:

	£
2005-06	24,589,931
2006-07	24,220,256
2007-08	20,377,328
2008-09	20,005,979
2009-10	17,324,850

Departmental Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department and its predecessors for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11697]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not give money to the trade unions it recognizes—the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS); Prospect; and First Division Association, in 2009-10 there was one full-time member of staff supporting the trade union secretary and three full-time members of staff who work and represent all three unions. The total wage for the four officials employed on union work that year was £118,000. The equivalent information for each year since 1997, and the value of the facilities they used, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many paid manpower hours civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent on trade union-related duties and activities in each year since 1997; [11698]

(2) how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessors spent the equivalent of *(a)* five days or fewer, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days and *(f)* 25 days or more on trade union-related activities or duties while being paid salaries from the public purse in each year since 1997. [11699]

Tim Loughton: In 2009-10, four officials worked over 25 days on trade union-related activities for all three recognized trade unions—the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS); Prospect; and First Division Association. A breakdown of the equivalent information for each year since 1997 and a calculation of the hours or how many days other civil servants spent on trade union related activities, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 47-50, on education funding, if he will publish for each local authority, *(a)* the end-year flexibility local authority specific grant allocations in force prior to the Statement and *(b)* the changes to such allocations. [10142]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 July 2010]:* Revised capital grant allocations by authority, where available, were published on 14 July on the Department for Education's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/eyf

Dr McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by how much education funding in England has been reduced in-year in 2010-11. [11491]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* The Department made reductions in its 2010-11 baseline of £650 million as part of the Budget last year and further reductions of £670 million as part of the £6.2 billion reductions across Government announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In addition, the Department has agreed to reduce its claim on end year flexibility (EYF) by £1 billion in line with the Government's plan to reduce the deficit. The Department expects to be able to manage most of this through better financial management and tighter controls. Because of the size of the reduction, however, the Department will have to make £156.5 million savings from capital budgets where commitments are no longer affordable.

	Saving (£ million)
Co-location projects—cancelling projects where progress has not been satisfactory or is not good value for money.	24.0
School swimming—cancelling capital investment in school swimming pools due to low take-up of the offer	15.0
Eco-towns contribution—not funding pilot work on energy efficient schools in the CLG led eco-towns initiative	2.5
Harnessing Technology Grant—a further reduction to take this year's funding down to £100 million, allowing schools to reconfigure their broadband and IT infrastructure projects onto a more sustainable funding model	50.0

	Saving (£ million)
14-19 diplomas, SEN and disabilities—cutting allocations to the 76 LAs which were not included in early BSF waves and were therefore allocated £8 million each to support investment in SEN or diploma provision. Their allocations will be reduced by circa £660,000	50.0
Social Work IT support—not proceeding, with plans announced just before the election of a formulaic allocation to LAs to improve social work IT provision	15.0
Total	156.5

EYF is a mechanism whereby departments may carry forward unspent departmental expenditure limit (DEL) provision into later financial years.

Foster Care

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many foster parents informed his Department of a decision not to continue as foster parents because of inability to control children in 2009. [9345]

Tim Loughton: Information about a carer's decision not to continue fostering is not collected centrally. A foster carer wishing to withdraw from fostering needs to inform their fostering service provider, who is responsible both for their approval as a foster carer and for any decision to terminate that approval.

Foster carers care for some of society's most vulnerable children and often face challenging child behaviour. The Department for Education is funding a national roll out of the "Fostering Changes" programme, which is specifically designed to support foster carers in managing such behaviour and in building positive relationships with the children in their care.

Free Schools

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what legislative changes are required to implement his policy on free schools. [9229]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* Free schools will be set up using the same legal framework as academies and no new legislation is currently required for free schools to be established.

The Government want to make it easier for a diverse range of people and organisations to set up new schools, and we will continue to review whether legislation could be amended or removed to make it easier for local communities to set up new schools.

As part of this work, the Government will shortly be consulting on changing regulations to make it easier for schools to be set up in buildings which currently have other uses.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which Minister authorised his Department's guidance to parents wishing to set up a new school. [11975]

Mr Gibb: The guidance provided by the Department for Education to parents and organisations wishing to set up a free school is available at:

www.education.gov.uk/freeschools

and was approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Lord Hill, the Minister responsible for free schools.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* Rachel Wolf and *(b)* Dominic Cummings since 6 May 2010. [12029]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* Rachel Wolf and Dominic Cummings have regular meetings with officials and Ministers.

Free School Meals: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency received free school meals in the academic year 2009-10. [12519]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15.

Information on the take up of free school meals has not been provided because it is not possible to exclude pupils who are below or over compulsory school age for take up information—far fewer of whom claim for and take free school meals—from the total number of pupils taking a free school meal.

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state funded secondary schools[1, 2]: School meal arrangements[3, 4] January 2010

	Nursery and primary schools[1]			State-funded secondary schools[2]		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
England	3,838,680	711,410	18.5	2,864,350	441,140	15.4
West Midlands	432,020	94,930	22.0	323,780	57,770	17.8
Dudley local authority	24,480	4,780	19.5	19,260	3,200	16.6
Dudley North parliamentary constituency	6,770	1,700	25.1	5,550	1,090	19.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are sole or dual main registrations. Includes boarders.

[4] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15. Pupils are recorded as eligible only if a claim for free school meals has been made by them or on their behalf by their parents.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

School Census

Free School Meals: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were in receipt of free school meals in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the Peterborough local education authority area in each year since 2001. [11191]

Mr Gibb: Information on free schools meals is shown in the table.

For nursery and primary schools both take up and eligibility have been provided. For state-funded secondary schools eligibility of those of school age (or below) has been provided. Take up information has not been provided because it is not possible to exclude pupils who are over compulsory school age—far fewer of whom claim for and take free school meals—from the total number of pupils taking a free school meal.

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state funded secondary[1,2] schools: Peterborough local authority: School meal arrangements— January each year

	Nursery and primary schools[1]					*State funded secondary schools[1,2]*		
	Number of pupils of the relevant population[3]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[4]*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number of pupils of the relevant population[3]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
2001	16,080	2,900	18.0	3,540	22.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	16,030	2,820	17.6	3,360	20.9	10,950	1,820	16.6
2003	15,710	2,550	16.2	3,110	19.8	11,030	1,860	16.9
2004	15,660	2,600	16.6	3,060	19.5	10,970	1,900	17.3
2005	15,540	2,400	15.4	2,880	18.5	10,940	1,950	17.8
2006	15,400	2,390	15.5	2,690	17.5	11,110	1,900	17.1
2007	15,420	2,150	13.9	2,530	16.4	11,190	1,890	16.9
2008	15,620	2,130	13.6	2,470	15.8	11,040	1,710	15.5
2009	15,730	2,320	14.7	2,610	16.6	11,100	1,620	14.6
2010	15,940	2,640	16.5	3,000	18.8	11,070	1,810	16.3

n/a= Not available. Information not collected.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[4] Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the day of the census. Those eligible may choose not to take up their offer of a free school meal for various reasons e.g. through preference or through non-attendance on the day.

[5] Full time pupils eligible and claiming for free school meals and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Music: Education

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he intends to take to promote the teaching of music in schools following the end of the Standards Fund in 2011. [12529]

Mr Gibb: A solid, knowledge-based music education for all children and young people is very important to this Government. We also believe that every child should learn to play a musical instrument and to sing. No decision has been taken on funding for music education beyond March 2011 as the spending review continues. Following the review we will set out how we plan to promote the teaching of music and the development of musical talent in schools.

Parenting Orders

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parenting orders have been issued for *(a)* truancy and *(b)* other offences in (i) Doncaster, (ii) South Yorkshire and (iii) England since their introduction. [12706]

Mr Gibb: The Department has collected data from local authorities in England on parenting orders granted by the Courts following *(a)* successful truancy prosecutions since 2004. The number of parenting orders issued between September 2004 and August 2009 in:

(i) Doncaster was 58

(ii) South Yorkshire was 129

(iii) England was 2,444

The Youth Justice Board has collected data on the number of parenting orders granted by the Courts following *(b)* other offences since their introduction in 1998. The following figures show the number of parenting orders awarded when a juvenile was convicted and received a court order. The data only include parenting orders imposed in other circumstances such as antisocial behaviour orders for 2000/01 to 2003/04 because Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) were not always involved in applying for these and therefore the data were incomplete. The number of these parenting orders issued between 1998 and 2008 in:

(i) Doncaster was 15

(ii) South Yorkshire was 117

(iii) England was 9,617

Public Expenditure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, what the breakdown by *(a)* budget area and *(b)* local education authority area is of the £1 billion reduction in expenditure to be made from his Department. [7032]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Work is still ongoing to identify the budget areas where the £1 billion reduction in End Year Flexibility (EYF) will be taken from, and we will be working on the implications as part of our work on the Spending Review.

£156.5 million of savings have already been identified from capital budgets in the following areas:

	£ million saving
Co-location projects—cancelling projects where progress has not been satisfactory or is not good value for money	24.0
School swimming—cancelling capital investment in school swimming pools due to low take-up of the offer	15.0
Eco-towns contribution—not funding pilot work on energy efficient schools in the CLG led eco-towns initiative	2.5
Harnessing Technology Grant—a further reduction to take this year's funding down to £100 million, allowing schools to reconfigure their broadband and IT infrastructure projects onto a more sustainable funding model	50.0
14-19 diplomas, SEN and disabilities—cutting allocations to the 76 LAs which were not included in early BSF waves and were therefore allocated £8 million each to support investment in SEN or diploma provision. Their allocations will be reduced by c £660,000	50.0
Social Work IT support—not proceeding with plans announced just before the election of a formulaic allocation to LAs to improve social work IT provision	15.0
Total	156.5

EYF is a mechanism whereby departments may carry forward unspent departmental expenditure limit (DEL) provision into later financial years.

Pupils: Behaviour Disorders

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* parents and *(b)* foster parents on disciplining children with behavioural problems. [9343]

Tim Loughton: This Department has not issued any guidance to parents on disciplining children with behavioural problems, although guidance issued by the Department to local authorities has encouraged local commissioning of parenting programmes. These have been shown to help parents adopt proven strategies for disciplining their children including children with behavioural problems.

Legislation makes clear that foster carers must not use corporal punishment, or any measure of discipline which is excessive or unreasonable. Fostering service providers have a statutory duty to prepare and implement a written policy on acceptable ways of disciplining children placed with foster carers.

To support foster carers to manage challenging child behaviour effectively, the Government are supporting the national roll-out of the Fostering Changes programme and piloting the KEEP programme. These programmes help foster carers develop the skills to manage challenging behaviour by forming positive relationships with the children they look after. Feedback from foster carers about these programmes has been extremely positive.

The Government are also piloting multi-dimensional treatment foster care (MTFC) for foster children with particularly challenging behaviour. This evidence-based programme helps foster carers to reduce children's behavioural and emotional difficulties.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average funding per pupil from his Department in *(a)* academy and *(b)* other maintained schools in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [1212]

Mr Gibb: The indicative figures for academy funding for 2010-11 will not be available until the end of this calendar year.

Final allocations of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2010-11 are available and can be found on:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/dsg200811/

We cannot confirm what the education funding settlement will be for academies or maintained schools for 2011-12 in advance of the next spending review but we are committed to ensuring that academies are funded on a comparable basis to other local schools, taking into account the additional responsibilities that academies have.

Schools: Discipline

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 11WS, on behaviour and discipline in schools, (1) whether he proposes that *(a)* teaching assistants, *(b)* clerical staff, *(c)* catering staff and *(d)* premises staff are to be given anonymity in respect of accusations made by pupils; [12600]

(2) in respect of which offences he proposes that teachers facing accusations from pupils are to be given anonymity; [12601]

(3) whether teachers are to be given anonymity in respect of accusations made by pupils at *(a)* the school at which they are employed and *(b)* other schools; [12602]

(4) whether teachers are to be given anonymity in respect of accusations made by pupils relating to incidents *(a)* on and *(b)* off school premises; [12603]

(5) what restrictions on the publication of the names of teachers against whom accusations have been made by pupils his Department plans to introduce. [12611]

Tim Loughton: The details of this commitment from our coalition programme are still under consideration. I want to ensure teachers are protected against false allegations, but I also need to consider the impact on other school staff and on those working in the wider children's workforce. All allegations need to be taken seriously, regardless of the alleged offence, whether it takes place in the school they are employed in, at another school or off the school premises. While it is an imperative that we continue to safeguard children, it is also the case that some allegations are false and maliciously intended. The impact of such allegations on teachers' careers and even their lives can be devastating and I am determined to afford those affected the best protection possible. I will announce my plans and further details of how we intend to improve anonymity for teachers facing allegations in due course.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many members of the New Schools Network have served as school governors. [10240]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold the information requested.

Schools: Standards

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has evaluated on the effects in other countries on levels of integration of pupils of different *(a)* socio-economic, *(b)* race, *(c)* ability and *(d)* other groups of free market competition in the provision of schooling. [9689]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Department has evaluated a range of research in these areas. Analysts have reviewed research evidence on the effects on levels of integration of pupils of different groups (including socio-economic status, ethnicity and ability) of free market competition in diversified school systems in other countries.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has evaluated on the effects on educational standards in other countries of free market competition in the provision of schooling. [9690]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 July 2010]:* The Department has evaluated a range of research in these areas. The Department has reviewed research evidence on the effects on educational standards of free market competition in diversified school systems in other countries. Some of these countries have schools with a great degree of autonomy, such as the Free Schools in Sweden, and Charter Schools in the US and the Canadian province of Alberta.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements Ofsted makes to exclude from its assessment of a school's performance factors outside a school's control, with particular reference to attendance records affected by *(a)* extended holidays taken by families of pupils and *(b)* large transient populations. [9967]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her response has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 22 July 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

There are considerable variations in attendance rates for schools in similar, challenging contexts, with high levels of pupil mobility, and these are often related to the quality of their strategies to reduce absence and promote regular attendance. Regular attendance is a critical factor in ensuring that pupils are able to learn effectively, make good progress and stay safe. While there is a clear statistical link between attendance and levels of social deprivation, it is important that this does not detract from the school's determination to secure good attendance however difficult the circumstances.

Inspectors exercise professional judgement when considering the extent to which overall attendance rates are affected by the poor attendance of a transient group of pupils. Inspectors evaluate the impact of the school's efforts to improve the attendance of pupils who are frequently absent and this is likely to be reflected in their judgement about the quality of the care, guidance and support provided by the school.

Many parents take extended family holidays during term time. Inspectors cannot ignore this type of absence and there are wide variations in how well this is managed by schools. When schools have built strong and productive partnerships with parents which help them to support their children's learning, holiday absence is less likely to be a serious problem. Positive and proactive action on the part of the school may then reflect favourably on the judgement about the school's leadership and management, including the specific judgement about the effectiveness of its engagement with parents and carers.

Inspectors are sensitive to the particular circumstances of schools which include the children of service personnel. It is Ministry of Defence practice to grant a two-week period of rest and recreation for personnel returning from active deployment. For those with young families, this usually means them wanting to take their children out of school for all or part of this. Inspectors take account of the impact these arrangements when making a judgement on attendance in such schools. They also take account of unusual weather conditions, such as the prolonged periods of snow experienced in some areas during December 2009 and January 2010.

Detailed guidance on judging attendance is available on the Ofsted website at:

www.ofsted.gov.uk

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Sixth Form Colleges: Building Schools for the Future Programme

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to include sixth form colleges in any future review of the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [4520]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Secretary of State announced a comprehensive review of all of its capital programmes. Capital investment in sixth-form colleges is within the scope of the review.

The Capital Review team will be providing advice to Ministers for use in the comprehensive spending review, and complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

Social Work Task Force

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force report. [11459]

Tim Loughton: The Government have announced their commitment to meeting and building upon the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force. It is important that the Social Work Reform Board's progress in implementing those recommendations is maintained. I attended the Reform Board's 9 July 2010 meeting. The minutes of this meeting, once agreed by the Reform Board, will be made available on their website, at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/swrb/documents.shtml

The Secretary of State for Education has also confirmed the following funding to support social work reform:

A £23 million Local Social Work Improvement Fund will be available to local authority children's services in 2010-11.

The continuation of Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) programmes to support recruitment and retention of social workers.

Funding to support the establishment of an independent College of Social Work.

Continuation of pilots of Social Work Practices.

The Department for Education is building on the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force to ensure that further improvements can be made in children's social work practice. To this end, on 10 June 2010, the Secretary of State for Education announced the Munro Review of Child Protection which, building on the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force, will focus on identifying the barriers that need to be removed to enable frontline children and families' social workers to practise effectively. Professor Munro will make her final report in April 2011.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the views of young people are taken into account on proposals for changes to youth services in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [13442]

Tim Loughton: We are currently developing our proposals for the future of youth services and on new approaches to giving young people a voice and strengthening youth scrutiny over national policy. I have taken action to ensure that young people are integral to the wider consultation process through a range of events, including one I hosted at the Department with around 20 teenagers from different parts of the country. Officials from my Department, with colleagues from Communities and Local Government, are working to assess the impact of current approaches to youth empowerment and democratic engagement and are drawing on the mechanisms and experience of youth organisations to involve young people directly in this work. Both Departments are also working with the Office for Civil Society to support the National Citizen Service programme and we are currently drawing up plans to ensure that young people are fully involved in the development of this.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question *(a)* 8162, *(b)* 8165, *(c)* 8164 and *(d)* 8161, tabled on 7 July 2010 for answer on 14 July 2010, on the Building Schools for the Future programme. [14763]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* A response has been sent to the hon. Member today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff his Department employs to consider *(a)* departmental and *(b)* national strategy; what output such staff are required to produce; and if he will make a statement. [15597]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expects all senior staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to make an appropriate contribution to the strategy of the FCO and of the UK, and to co-ordination through the National Security Council (NSC), within the strategic framework set by the Government. 15 staff are currently employed in the Central Policy Group, which co-ordinates the FCO's relationship with the NSC and facilitates high-level strategic discussion within the FCO.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what severance payment was made to each *(a)* Minister and *(b)* special adviser in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14662]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to the response given to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

The Government publishes annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers to the previous Government who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which policy areas are designated under the Common Foreign and Security Policy as areas of joint action. [14459]

Mr Lidington: Joint actions no longer exist. Before the Lisbon Treaty came into force, Article 14 of the Treaty of the European Union (TEU) stated that:

> "Joint actions shall address specific situations when operational action by the Union is deemed to be required."

Most joint actions dealt with the imposition of sanctions, crisis management operations and the creation and running of EU Common Foreign and Security Policy agencies (for example, the European Defence Agency). Under Articles 23 to 46 of the TEU these types of decision are now in the form of Decisions of the Council. Like joint actions, council decisions are legally binding between the 27 member states.

EU Institutions: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to increase the number of UK nationals working in EU institutions; and if he will make a statement. [15603]

Mr Lidington: It is a Government priority to increase the number of UK officials working in the EU institutions and my officials have been developing a campaign to raise interest in careers in the EU institutions. The objective will be to raise both the number and quality of UK applicants.

We have reintroduced the European Fast Stream which prepares UK civil servants for the entry concours while undertaking demanding civil servant jobs. Work is also under way to develop a more strategic approach to the use of secondments of UK civil servants to posts in the EU institutions, where UK experience and insight can add real value.

We are also holding a series of events to raise awareness among young people over the course of the coming months. This is in its early stages but the first is scheduled for mid-October, when I hope to be joined by my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Deputy Prime Minister at a reception in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) where our guests will include university Vice Chancellors, Heads of Language Departments, careers advisers and interested members of the media. We will also launch an area on the FCO website dedicated to EU careers.

European Parliament: Computer Games

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by the European Union in developing its role-playing game Citzalia; and how much it will cost annually to support and maintain the gaming site. [14708]

Mr Lidington: Information on this project was supplied by the European Parliament. Citzalia is an initiative of an organisation called the European Service Network (ESN), a Brussels-based communications agency whose website is:

http://www.esn.eu

At the beginning of 2010 the European Parliament awarded ESN a maximum grant of €206,450 which represents 75% of the estimated cost of establishing the project. An advance on the grant has been disbursed and final payment is conditional on the successful completion of the project and will not be made until such time as the final accounts have been received and analysed by the European Parliament.

The grant funding covers a set period of time, after which no further funding will be provided for the ongoing annual cost of supporting and maintaining the game.

Further information can be obtained from the UK Office of the European Parliament, whose website is:

www.europarl.org.uk

Human Rights

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department work full-time on human rights policy. [14229]

Mr Hague: 25 members of the Human Rights and Democracy Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London work full-time on human rights, assisted by a large number of staff in Consular Directorate, geographical teams and other functional policy teams. All FCO overseas missions monitor and raise human rights with their host countries. Staff recruited locally to work at posts overseas may also work on human rights issues.

Ilois: Resettlement

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the *(a)* assisted returns of and *(b)* the right of permanent return by Chagos islanders to the islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory. [15905]

Mr Bellingham: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out in his evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 8 September 2010, the Government will continue to defend their position in the proceedings brought by the Chagos Islanders to the European Court of Human Rights. This is because we believe that the arguments against allowing resettlement on the grounds of defence security and feasibility are clear and compelling.

India: Foreign Relations

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of bilateral relations between the UK and India; and if he will make a statement. [15742]

Alistair Burt: The UK is committed to an enhanced partnership with India, which was strengthened by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit to India on 29-30 July 2010. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary accompanied the Prime Minister, along with colleagues including the right hon. Chancellor of the Exchequer and the right hon. Business Secretary, a delegation of business leaders and representatives from education, culture and sport. Throughout the visit Ministers had productive and wide ranging discussions with their Indian counterparts. Both sides agreed specific initiatives to develop economic and trade relations, science and technology, energy, education, defence, cultural and people to people contacts.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of recommendations for use of the Intensive Alternative to Custody scheme were accepted by the courts in the latest period for which figures are available; [14977]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the Intensive Alternative to Custody scheme to date; [15018]

(3) for what offences an Intensive Alternative to Custody has been given in the latest period for which figures are available. [15019]

Mr Blunt: NOMS does not keep statistical information on the proportion of recommendations for the Intensive Alternative to Custody scheme accepted by the courts.

Overall, £13.9 million in funding was allocated to the programme (£2.7 million in 2008-09; £5.7 million in 2009-10; and £5.5 million in 2010-11).

The majority of offences for which an intensive alternative to custody has been given are acquisitive in nature and account for 36% of the orders. This is followed by violent offences 32.5%, motoring 10%, drug offences 8.4% with the remaining 12.6% being a collection of other offences.

Children Act 1989

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outcome was of each referral to a local authority under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 following a restraint incident in each of the last five years. [15744]

Mr Blunt: These data are not held centrally and are available only at local authority level. To obtain such information would be at disproportionate cost.

Community Orders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse was of ordinary community orders in the latest period for which figures are available. [15020]

Mr Blunt: Costs will vary greatly depending on the nature and intensity of the order which can include one or more of 12 different requirements. The Specification, Benchmarking and Costing programme in the National Offender Management Service has produced specifications on the management of the community order and the delivery of the supervision requirement. Work is underway to establish the costs of these specifications with probation trusts. Full costs of the supervision requirement will be collected and published in order to benchmark the whole of the probation system by the end of 2011.

Defamation

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made on his plans to review libel law; and if he will make a statement. [15701]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to reviewing the law on defamation (including libel) with a view to ensuring that freedom of speech and academic debate are protected and that a fair balance is struck between freedom of expression and the protection of reputation. We intend to publish a draft Bill in the new year for consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny, with a view to introducing legislation as soon after that as parliamentary time allows.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's chief scientific officer since 6 May 2010. [15437]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since 6 May 2010, Ministers have met the Department's chief scientific officer as follows:

Crispin Blunt has met her on approximately eight occasions.

Lord McNally on four.

Jonathan Djanogly on four.

Nick Herbert MP on six.

and I myself have met her on at least eight occasions.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on consultants in each year since 1997. [12906]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) came into existence in May 2007, merging the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office. This means comprehensive and comparable data are only available for 2007 onwards.

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) collates data on consultancy expenditure as part of its Consultancy Value Programme which assists departments in driving greater value from consultants. The MoJ is currently collecting data on consultant expenditure for 2009-10. The results will be sent to the OGC in October 2010.

The Department's expenditure on consultants in 2008-09 was £50 million. This figure is based on a manual data collection exercise completed for the period April 2008 to March 2009.

The Ministry's expenditure on consultancy for 2007-08 was £56 million and can be found in the link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/professional_services_consultancy_value_programme.asp

Both the 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures reflect expenditure by MoJ headquarters, HM Courts Service, HM Courts Service Estates, Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian, and the National Offender Management Service (except for the Probation Service). Refinements in the methodology for classifying expenditure in accordance with OGC taxonomy means that the 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures are not directly comparable at a detailed level.

The OGC definition of "consultancy" is very broad. It can include professional services provided by lawyers, surveyors, architects et cetera and the employment of specialists on an interim basis, to implement project solutions, providing expertise for a defined period of time that is not available in-house.

Fines

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* fines, *(b)* penalty notice payments and *(c)* compensation payments went unpaid in each of the last five years. [15001]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS systems do not identify how much of the value of the outstanding balance relates to fines, penalty notices or compensation, this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all fine accounts.

However HMCS systems can identify the total amount imposed within the last five years and the total value outstanding. The total value outstanding can relate to fines imposed in any previous period and includes financial penalties imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004-06) and financial penalties which are being paid by instalments. The total amount imposed and balance outstanding includes fines imposed in the magistrates and Crown courts, compensation, costs, victims surcharge and the value of unpaid fixed penalty notices that are transferred to HMCS for enforcement as a fine. The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances.

£

	Total amount imposed	*Total amount outstanding*
2005-06	368,923,934	474,292,175
2006-07	364,563,520	486,597,240
2007-08	376,569,882	500,630,569
2008-09	393,121,639	544,890,624
2009-10	406,670,167	588,475,304

Judiciary: Retirement

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of increasing the retirement age of *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* full-time members of the judiciary. [15325]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are considering the merits of such a change, in consultation with the judiciary and others.

Jury Service: Hearing Impairment

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to assist deaf people to undertake jury service. [15160]

Mr Djanogly: The Guide to Jury Summons leaflet which is issued with every summons advises jurors to declare whether they have a disability or special need on the Reply to Jury Summons form to enable HMCS via the Jury Central Summoning Bureau to automatically notify the relevant court of any disability or needs. Court staff will then contact the juror to discuss if adjustments can be arranged and offer a pre-service visit to check the facilities available. In addition to this, jurors are advised that they themselves may request a pre-service visit to the court before their jury service commences to assess the facilities by contacting the Jury Central Summoning Bureau.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people called to undertake jury service in each HM Courts Service area in the last five years were unable to serve because of deafness. [15161]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service does not keep specific information on how many people were called and excused from jury service because of their deafness.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities are provided for deaf people participating in jury service in each HM Courts Service area. [15162]

Mr Djanogly: Jurors with certain hearing aids may need the use of an induction loop system and each court will either have the system on site or have access to it by borrowing it from a neighbouring court. Courts can also, subject to cost, arrange for computer aided transcription for profoundly deaf jurors which allows the proceedings to be relayed simultaneously to the juror in written form while in the courtroom. However, the juror must be able to participate in the discussion in the deliberation room with their fellow jurors without the aid of third party assistance such as a sign language interpreter.

Land Registry: Fees and Charges

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the average cost to district councils in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Mid Norfolk constituency of the proposed removal of charges for Land Registry checks. [15082]

Mr Djanogly: No Land Registry charges have been removed. However, we revoked the fee for a personal search of the local land charges register in England on 17 August 2010. Responsibility for this fee in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government.

There should be no overall cost to local authorities in the current financial year, as the loss of income will be met by central Government under the new burdens doctrine. For 2011-12 and in future years the ongoing loss of fees will be considered as part of the spending review.

However the Government expect local authorities themselves to take greater responsibility for moving to more efficient ways of registering charges on land and maintaining land charge registers, as well as for making other environmental information required to support property transactions accessible to the public by electronic means. This would be in line both with the existing duty on all public authorities progressively to make environmental information easily available under the Environmental Information Regulations, and with the Government's new Transparency Agenda.

Legal Advice and Assistance

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the recent tendering exercise by the Legal Services Commission on the ability of the most vulnerable people to gain access to legal advice and representation. [15142]

Mr Djanogly: The aim of the tender process as stated in the Legal Services Commission's (LSC) response to consultation "Civil Bid Rounds for 2010 Contract: A Consultation Response" included the objective to

> 'commission services that maintain service standards and ensure easier client access to advice'.

The LSC published a full impact assessment alongside its consultation response. Like the final policy, the full impact assessment was informed by responses to the LSC's formal 12-week consultation.

As part of the tender process for civil contracts starting later this year, matter starts have been made available equal to those used in the period September 2008 to August 2009. The tender process is not yet complete, however it is expected that over one million acts of assistance will be delivered during the current financial year and overall as a result no reduction in access to advice for clients is expected.

Together with representative bodies (the Advice Services Alliance, the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group and Resolution) the LSC will be conducting a review of the outcomes of the tender process and will consider in detail any areas of concern identified.

Through the new Criminal Defence Service contract, the LSC has secured sufficient contracted providers to ensure that the safety net used by those that do not have their own solicitor—that is the duty rota scheme—at every police station and court are adequately staffed. Therefore, the most vulnerable will continue to gain access to legal advice and representation.

Legal Aid

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects of a reduction in the number of suppliers of legal aid services on employment at *(a)* qualified and *(b)* support level in the legal sector. [15141]

Mr Djanogly: Through the Access to Justice Act 1999, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) is tasked with maintaining the Community Legal Service for the purpose of promoting the availability to individuals of and, in particular, for securing (within the resources made available, and priorities set, in accordance with the Act) that individuals have access to services that effectively meet their needs.

The recent tender process for civil legal contracts has sought to meet this objective. The tender process has not yet concluded and final numbers of legal aid providers delivering work under the new contract will only be known after the appeals and pre-contract verification processes are complete and as such no final assessment on the impact on the legal profession has taken place. Expenditure on civil legal aid is expected to remain unchanged as a result of the tender process and it is therefore not anticipated that this process will significantly affect the number of legal advisers employed overall although as not all organisations have been successful in their tenders it is likely that there will be some movement of legal advisers from unsuccessful organisations to successful ones.

The new Criminal Defence Service (CDS) contract came into effect on 14 July 2010. The number of providers contracted to undertake general CDS work across England and Wales remained stable.

This contract introduced new standards for undertaking prison law work, to ensure that only those firms with suitably experienced fee earners would qualify for the contract. This has led to a reduction in the number of providers that are able to undertake prison law work. It should be noted that the vast majority of those that did not qualify for a contract had undertaken minimal numbers of cases in the past. The LSC are confident that the remaining contracted providers are more than able to meet the demand in this area.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the monetary value of contributions made to the Legal Aid Fund by means of *(a)* monthly contributions and *(b)* charges on assets recovered by those who have been granted support from the Fund. [15143]

Mr Djanogly: Details of income due from funded clients are published under note 2 of the Legal Services Commission's (LSC's) annual report and accounts.

During 2008-09, the latest period for which the accounts have been published, the total amount recoverable by the LSC for legal aid work in civil matters under the statutory charge was £47 million. This included both monies which have been secured on assets and unsecured damages, where the statutory charge applies. Additionally, £16 million was recoverable by way of contributions.

From July 2010 the Crown court means testing scheme has been in operation across England and Wales. A number of defendants are now the subject of orders requiring them to contribute to the costs of their case from their income. We anticipate that numbers will increase substantially as more defendants are assessed as being liable to contribute to their costs.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the legal aid budget was in respect of *(a)* criminal case legal aid and *(b)* family and social welfare legal aid in each of the last three years. [15157]

Mr Djanogly: There is no separate budget for criminal cases and family and social welfare law; funding forms part of the Department's overall departmental expenditure limit.

Legal aid expenditure on criminal matters, family and social welfare law during each of the past three years for which the Legal Services Commission's accounts have been published are provided in the following table, in cash terms.

£ million

	Criminal matters	*Family*	*Social welfare*
2006-07	1,171	549	108
2007-08	1,179	583	106
2008-09	1,187	624	123

Legal Services Commission: Contracts

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Legal Services Commission (LSC) is permitted to award more matter starts than requested by an applicant for tenders in the LSC contract commencing on 14 October 2010. [15248]

Mr Djanogly: Organisations may not tender for more work than is available in a procurement area or access point, nor may they tender for more work than the maximum permitted by the capacity of their staff. The tender rules, as currently set down, do not allow the Legal Services Commission to award more NMS than have been applied for.

Magistrates Courts: Keighley

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) under what budgetary headings the estimate of £263,411 for the 2009-10 operating costs excluding staff and non-cash costs of Keighley magistrates court, as referred to in Consultation Paper CP13/10, Proposal on the provision of court services in North and West Yorkshire, was made; [15331]

(2) under what budgetary headings the estimate of around £225,000 for HMCS investment in backlog maintenance at Keighley magistrates court, as referred to in Consultation Paper CP13/10, Proposal on the provision of court services in North and West Yorkshire, was made; [15332]

(3) under what budgetary headings the estimate of £130,884 for the 2009-10 operating cost excluding staff and non-cash costs of Keighley county court, as referred to in Consultation Paper CP13/10, Proposal on the provision of court services in North and West Yorkshire, was made; [15333]

(4) under what budgetary headings the estimate of around £475,000 for KMCS investment in backlog maintenance at Keighley county court, as referred to in Consultation Paper CP13/10, Proposal on the provision of court services in North and West Yorkshire, was made. [15334]

Mr Djanogly: The budgetary headings under which estimates were made of operating costs (excluding staff, non-cash and judicial costs) and backlog maintenance costs at Keighley magistrates court, sitting at Bingley, and Keighley county court, are listed as follows:

Keighley magistrates (Bingley)—Operating costs

Property Rents
Rates
Off-Site Storage
Hire of office/courtroom related equipment
Hire of Photocopiers—VAT Recoverable
Other Property Services
Other Expenditure—Other
Catering-Office Drinking Water
Printing Postage and Office expenditure
Fuel and Utilities
Service Costs
Telecomms
Maintenance

Keighley magistrates (Bingley)—Backlog maintenance

Building Fabric
Decoration
Electrical/Lighting
External Works
Fire Works
Heating/Plumbing
Roof
Security

Keighley county—Operating costs

Property Rents
Rates
Service Charges
Hire of office/courtroom related equipment
Hire of Photocopiers—VAT Recoverable
Other Property Services
Other Expenditure—Other
Printing Postage and Office expenditure
IT Services
Fuel and Utilities
Telecomms
Maintenance

Keighley county—Backlog maintenance

Alarms
Building Fabric
Decoration
Electrical/Lighting
External Works
Fire Works
Heating/Plumbing
Roof

Medway Secure Training Centre

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many referrals have there been to children and adolescent mental health services of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls held at Medway secure training centre in each month since April 1998. [15068]

Mr Blunt: Medway STC provide mental health provision for all children and young people placed at the centre and have access to external specialist provision.

One female young person was referred to hospital for psychiatric treatment from Medway in 2006.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children received into Medway secure training centre in each year since 1998 have been assessed as having an identified *(a)* learning and *(b)* physical disability. [15069]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of young people admitted into Medway STC with a statement of educational needs relating to learning disabilities. Medway STC has only recorded this data centrally from August 2004 to date.

Medway STC has no record of any young person placed at the centre with a physical disability.

	Number of young people with a learning disability
2004[1]	0
2005	5
2006	1
2007	3
2008	8
2009	7
2010	6

[1] Records commenced August 2004

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children received into Medway secure training centre since April 1998 have been assessed as having an identified mental health problem. [15070]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of young people received into Medway STC who have been assessed as having an identified mental health problem. These data are only available from 2006 to date.

These figures are based solely on clinical diagnoses made prior to young people's admission to Medway STC.

	Number
2006	
ADHD	5
Depression	1
2006 total	6
2007	
ADHD	32
CD	3
Aspergers	2
Autism	2
Attachment disorder	2
Depression	2
Sleep disorder	1
Opposition defiance disorder	2
2007 total	46
2008	
ADHD	43
Autism	1
Attachment disorder	2
Conduct disorder	4
2008 total	50
2009	
ADHD	29
Autism	1
Aspergers	1
Obsessive compulsive disorder	2
Conduct disorder	5
Opposition defiance disorder	4
Attachment disorder	3
2009 total	45
2010 (to date)	
ADHD	5
2010 total	5

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults by *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls against staff have been recorded at Medway secure training centre in each month since April 1998; and how many such assaults required external medical help. [15071]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of assaults where the victim was not a young person, this includes staff and visitors, and of these how many resulted in injury requiring external medical help. The data cannot be broken down by gender of perpetrator.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Number of assaults where the victim was not a young person	*Number of assaults where the victim was not a young person resulting in injury requiring external medical help*	*Proportion of assaults requiring external medial help (percentage)*
2007			
April	14	0	0
May	12	0	0
June	17	0	0
July	49	0	0
August	22	1	5
September	16	0	0
October	32	0	0
November	27	0	0
December	20	0	0
2008			
January	24	0	0
February	19	1	5
March	28	0	0
April	26	0	0
May	9	0	0
June	24	1	4
July	31	0	0
August	7	0	0
September	33	1	3
October	23	0	0
November	10	0	0
December	14	0	0
2009			
January	9	0	0
February	22	0	0
March	60	0	0

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults by staff against children have been recorded at Medway secure training centre in each year since April 1998; and how many such assaults required external medical help. [15072]

Mr Blunt: There have been no recorded incidents of assault by staff against children and/or young people at Medway STC between April 1998 and to date.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults by *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls against other children have been recorded at Medway secure training centre in each month since April 1998; and how many such assaults required external medical help. [15073]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of assaults where the victim was a young person and of these how many resulted in injury requiring external medical help. These data cannot be broken down by gender of perpetrator.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Month	*Number of assaults by young people where the victim was a young person*	*Number of assaults by young people where the victim was a young person resulting in injury requiring external medical help*	*Proportion of assaults requiring external medical help (percentage)*
2007			
April	8	0	0
May	8	0	0
June	10	0	0
July	13	0	0
August	16	0	0
September	12	0	0
October	10	0	0
November	16	0	0
December	22	0	0
2008			
January	21	0	0
February	21	0	0
March	11	0	0
April	9	2	22
May	6	0	0
June	21	0	0
July	19	0	0
August	13	0	0
September	12	0	0
October	15	0	0
November	12	0	0
December	8	0	0
2009			
January	5	0	0
February	11	0	0
March	8	1	13

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls were received into Medway secure training centre for a second time within a year of their first reception in each year since 1999. [15074]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of boys and girls who were received into Medway STC for a second time within a year of their first reception. The data are available only from 2003 to date.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

		Number
	Male	*Female*
2003	5	4
2004	12	13
2005	19	19
2006	14	22
2007	5	15
2008	9	20
2009	24	8
2010	7	1

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls have been received into Medway secure training centre (i) twice, (ii) three times and (iii) four times or more since 1998. [15075]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows how many boys and girls have been received into Medway secure training centre (i) twice, (ii) three times and (iii) four times or more since 1998.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Male	*Female*
Twice	85	99
Thrice	18	11
Four times +	2	5

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average length of time was spent by *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls on remand at Medway secure training centre in 2009. [15076]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the average length of time in days that was spent by *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls who were remanded at Medway secure training centre for custodial episodes ended in 2008-09.

An episode refers to a period a young person has spent in custody and it is possible that one young person can start more than one custodial episode at different points of each year for different offences or for change in legal basis for detention, such as remand to sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Average length of time in days for remanded young people at Medway STC in 2008-09
Boys	94
Girls	37

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence was for *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls received into Medway secure training centre in 2009. [15077]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the average length of time spent in custody in days by *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls who were sentenced at Medway secure training centre for custodial episodes ended in 2008-09.

An episode refers to a period a young person has spent in custody and it is possible that one young person can start more than one custodial episode at different points of each year for different offences or for change in legal basis for detention, such as remand to sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Average length of time spent in custody by young people at Medway STC in 2008-09

Gender	*Days*
Boys	100
Girls	79

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many referrals there have been to the local children safeguarding board in respect of children held at Medway secure training centre in each month since April 1998. [15079]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the numbers of referrals to the local safeguarding children board in respect of children and/or young people held at Medway secure training centre during the period June 2001 to date. Local safeguarding children boards were introduced in statute in the Children's Act 2004, but not fully operational until 2006 when the revised "Working Together to Safeguard Children" was published. Previously to this, they were called Area Child Protection Committees.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Number
2001	
June	5
July	1
August	0
September	4
October	3
November	0
December	0
Total	13
2002	
January	1
February	2
March	1
April	5
May	1
June	3
July	2
August	1
September	1
October	1
November	1
December	0
Total	19
2003	
January	4
February	2
March	0
April	3
May	3
June	8
July	8
August	2
September	5
October	4
November	4
December	7
Total	50
2004	
January	4
February	2
March	2
April	2
May	4
June	1
July	3
August	3
September	3
October	1
November	5
December	2
Total	32
2005	
January	2
February	1
March	2
April	5
May	3
June	2
July	3
August	7
September	6
October	4
November	1
December	1
Total	37
2006	
January	2
February	0
March	1
April	0
May	4
June	4
July	1
August	4
September	2
October	5
November	2
December	1
Total	26
2007	
January	1
February	1
March	8

	Number
April	1
May	3
June	0
July	7
August	1
September	0
October	1
November	1
December	7
Total	31
2008	
January	0
February	1
March	3
April	2
May	1
June	1
July	1
August	4
September	1
October	2
November	3
December	0
Total	19
2009	
January	0
February	5
March	6
April	1
May	6
June	1
July	4
August	2
September	5
October	1
November	1
December	2
Total	34
2010	
January	1
February	4
March	5
April	3
May	11
June	2
July	3
August	3
Total	32

National Probation Service: Secondment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will offer incentives to probation service staff to undertake secondments in the voluntary sector. [15227]

Mr Blunt: The Government have made a commitment to putting voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises at the centre of our mission to deliver better public services and build the Big Society. Individual probation trusts may offer their employees appropriate development opportunities in areas that are aligned to trust objectives, including the voluntary sector.

Opiate Dependent Litigation Scheme

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation has been paid out under the Opiate Dependent Litigation Scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [15103]

Mr Blunt: In 2006 the Prison Service settled 197 claims from prisoners who claimed that their drug detoxification treatment was inadequate. The claims concerned medical practice in prisons dating back to the late 1990s. Legal advice was that the standard of care they received fell short of acceptable medical standards and the Prison Service's guidelines for dealing with opiate dependent prisoners. On the basis of strong legal advice it was decided to settle these cases out of court in order to minimise costs to the taxpayer. If the claims had proceeded to trial they would have resulted in considerably more expense to the public purse. Each case was settled for £3,807.10 (a total of £749,998.7).

Following the payment of compensation the claimants' legal costs were settled for a total of £696,198.

Powers of Attorney

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken by the Office of the Public Guardian is to register each Lasting Power of Attorney it receives; [14347]

(2) how many Lasting Powers of Attorney have been registered since their inception; [14348]

(3) what proportion of Lasting Powers of Attorney were rejected on grounds of error in the latest period for which figures are available. [14664]

Mr Djanogly: Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) were introduced by the Mental Capacity Act 2005, which was fully implemented on 1 October 2007. All LPAs must be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Provided that all submitted documentation is in order, the OPG currently registers an LPA within 13 weeks. This includes a six-week statutory waiting period.

Since 1 October 2007 the OPG has registered some 200,000 LPAs. These can be broken down further as follows:

36,000 health and welfare LPAs

164,000 property and affairs LPAs

The OPG makes every effort to ensure that, even where there are errors in an application, corrections are made and a registered LPA results. In the period 1 October 2007 to 2 September 2010, 3% of LPA forms were rejected as invalid due to unrecoverable errors in completion.

Prisoner Escapes

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners absconded from each prison in each of the last five years. [14976]

Mr Blunt: The number of prisoners who have absconded from each prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Despite a rising prison population, the number of absconds has been falling year on year thanks in part to better security procedures within prisons and a more proactive approach by many open prisons, the police and CPS in prosecuting those absconding. Last year was the lowest level of absconds on record.

Every abscond is reported to the police. Some 96% of those absconding are re-captured and returned to custody.

Absconds from prisons in England and Wales in the last five years, broken down by (a) establishment and (b) year

					Number
Establishment name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Acklington	1	—	—	—	—
Ashwell	1	—	—	—	—
Askham Grange	12	14	7	11	4
Blantyre House	1	1	—	—	—
Dover	3	—	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	2	4	2	—	—
Ford	110	96	62	47	53
Grendon	36	34	11	21	10
Haslar	3	—	—	—	2
Hewell[1]	—	—	—	—	16
Hewell Grange[1]	24	24	13	15	—
Highpoint	—	—	1	—	—
Hollesley Bay	32	16	21	19	17
Kirkham	120	74	54	65	42
Kirklevington	4	2	—	—	6
Leyhill	102	66	37	55	57
Lindholme	4	—	—	1	1
Moorland	73	49	41	23	35
Morton Hall	—	—	1	—	—
New Hall	1	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	33	49	48	46	17
Norwich (Britten House Open Element)	8	2	2	1	1
Pentonville	1	—	—	—	—
Risley	—	—	—	—	1
Shepton Mallet	—	1	—	—	—
Standford Hill	39	58	38	44	46
Sudbury	77	76	78	55	23
Thorn Cross	90	105	82	68	24
Usk\Prescoed	19	9	9	8	6
Verne	—	1	—	—	—
Wealstun[2]	74	28	46	32	—
Escort	7	0	2	2	1
Total	877	709	555	513	362

[1] In 2008 HMP Hewell Grange merged with HMP Brockhill and HMP Blakenhurst to form HMP Hewell.

[2] In 2008 the open accommodation at HMP Wealstun was converted to a Category C closed establishment.

Note:

Data for 2009-10 will not be available until later in the year.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisoners: Foreigners

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to monitor the number of foreign nationals in UK prisons; and what changes there have been in the number of such prisoners in the last two years. [14344]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the UK Border Agency work closely together to ensure that those foreign national prisoners who have no right to remain in the UK are removed at the earliest opportunity. In 2009 NOMS and UKBA concluded a Service Level Agreement aimed primarily at better managing the number of time-served foreign national prisoners (or immigration detainees) in prison and focused on improving the process for the management and removal of foreign national prisoners who met the criteria for deportation. A major element of this Service Level Agreement was the concentration of these prisoners within the male, category C estate. Foreign national prisoners with more than three months but less than three years to serve are allocated, where possible, to designated hub and spoke prisons.

The main aim of this policy is to improve joint working throughout the removals process by embedding UKBA staff in "hub" prisons, who in turn service "spoke" prisons. Reducing the number of prisons with small FNP populations allows for more effective case-working of the identified group by UKBA and creates centres of expertise in the prison system for managing those foreign national prisoners who are most likely to be removed. Prisoners also benefit from improved information and access to UKBA, as well as earlier resolution of their cases.

In June 2008, the number of foreign national prisoners held in England and Wales stood at 11,498 (14% of the prison population). In June 2010, the number had fallen to 11,135 (13%). During the same period the total prison population rose from 83,194 to 85,002.

The management of foreign national prisoners in Scotland and in Northern Ireland is a matter for the relevant devolved administration.

Prisoners: Human Rights

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have taken legal action against the Government and Government agencies under the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. [15104]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For example providing the information from the Ministry of Justice alone would involve the individual examination of several thousand files.

NOMS records litigation claims by the main type of allegation. Claims often make reference to alleged breaches of human rights. In some cases the claim will be brought wholly on an HRA basis. In others an HRA basis of claim will be but one of a number of alleged grounds of claim.

Prisoners: Marriage

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* marriages and *(b)* civil partnership ceremonies have taken place in prisons in the last three years. [15196]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not keep a central record of the number of marriages or civil partnership ceremonies that take place in prisons. This information could be obtained only by contacting every prison establishment individually which would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Telephones

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to the Prison Service on monitoring the telephone calls of sex offenders serving custodial sentences; and if he will make a statement. [15234]

Mr Blunt: The telephone calls of all prisoners are recorded and may be monitored, other than calls between prisoners and their legal advisers and the courts. Prisons refer to a range of guidance (as set out in the following list) when deciding whether to monitor the calls of a prisoner who has been convicted of a sexual offence. Some calls are monitored because of the offence the prisoner committed in order to protect the public. However, some telephone calls are monitored randomly or because of concerns about the risk that the prisoner poses to prison security. All of these situations may apply to a prisoner convicted of a sexual offence.

Prison Service Order 4400—Prisoner Communications Chapter 4: Prisoners' Use of Telephones

http://pso.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSO_4400_prisoner_communications.doc

The Public Protection Manual—Chapter 2—Child Contact Procedures

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/100048A6chap2_sec2_child_contact.doc

The National Security Framework—Function 4.

Prisons

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department issues guidance to the Prison Service on the display of information provided by third parties in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [15017]

Mr Blunt: Requests to display information in prisons are dealt with on a case by case basis due to the wide and varied nature of prison establishments and the information they need to display.

The layout of prison establishments varies greatly, as does the provision of notice boards and other means suitable for the display of information.

The kind of information to be displayed also needs to be taken into account and some messages are only suitable for certain types of prisoners. Additionally, some information is intended only for prison staff and not for offenders.

Decisions are taken by governors about the suitability of the information to be displayed for the type of offenders they manage. They also decide where in their establishments the information should be displayed.

The National Offender Management Service can request that governors ensure information is displayed appropriately, but the decision about how the request is dealt with is made locally.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons have one or more prisoner representative groups; what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners who are members of such groups; and what funding his Department has provided for such groups in the last three years. [15202]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not collated centrally nor required to be recorded locally, and could be collated only by manual checking with individual establishments, which would incur disproportionate cost. However, Prison Service Order 4480 (Prisoners' Representative Associations), a copy of which has been placed in the House Library sets out existing policy.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) encourages prisoners to take responsibility for their actions and to help both themselves and their fellow prisoners. Representative committees exist in many establishments and these are often an effective way of communicating with, and getting feedback from, prisoners. Prisoner committees are purely local groups to involve prisoners in local issues and do not require or receive any funding.

Governors and directors have discretion in deciding how far to allow prisoners representative groups to operate in their establishments. They must take account of local conditions and the implications for good order and discipline. They are also required to include prisoner representatives in local Race Equality Action Teams.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times an accommodation fabric check has led to confiscation of items from a prisoner's cell in the latest period for which figures are available. [15231]

Mr Blunt: Accommodation fabric checks are one of the many effective searching measures employed by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) within prisons.

The NOMS National Security Framework requires that prisons have arrangements in place for keeping records of searching and subsequent finds of illicit items, which will be confiscated when found. However, these details are not collated centrally. To provide the information requested would involve obtaining information from all prisons across the prison estate which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many closed circuit television cameras there are installed on prison premises; what estimate he has made of the number of offences recorded on such cameras in the latest period for which figures are available; and on how many occasions an offence recorded on such a camera has resulted in a prosecution in the latest period for which figures are available. [15015]

Mr Blunt: CCTV is among the range of technical aids governors deploy within prison establishments that are designed to enhance security.

The National Offender Management Service does not compile figures on the use of CCTV in prisons centrally. There is no mandatory requirement for individual prisons to collate these data locally. The information requested could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost by asking each prison to carry out a survey of CCTV installations and to analyse any locally held records.

Prisons: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to build a prison in *(a)* Carlisle constituency and *(b)* neighbouring constituencies. [14346]

Mr Blunt: In October 2009, the Ministry of Justice began a site search for sites suitable for 1,500-place prisons in the priority areas of North West England, North Wales, West Yorkshire and Greater London. A number of sites in the North West have been put forward, including in Carlisle.

We will look in detail over the coming months at the sentencing frameworks for adults and young offenders, as well as the full range of penalties available in the criminal justice system.

Long-term decisions on prison capacity programmes will be taken in the light of these policy developments. We will ensure that we meet prison capacity requirements more efficiently to improve value for money for the taxpayer and to contribute savings to help reduce the budget deficit.

Prisons: Dogs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the use of dogs by the Prison Service in prisons. [15092]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service have dog teams trained and accredited in six different areas of detection including drugs and arms and explosives searching, in addition to patrol and specialist incident support dog teams. The protocols and procedures for the use of prison dogs are based on need and will differ between specialities. The use of all prison dogs is set out in restricted Prison Service Orders, 1050 Prison Service Dogs Chapters 1 (Standards) and 2 (Training Aids); and 1053 External Patrols which are supported by local security protocols. All prison dogs deployed in the prison estate are fully accredited.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* completed the 19-day drug detoxification programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [15012]

Mr Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

In the period March to May 2010, 215 prisoners entered 14-day reduction programmes, which were taken in combination with a pre-detoxification five-day stabilisation treatment programme. Of these 215 cases, 132 results of treatment were reported. Of these, 11 (8%) left treatment in an unplanned manner, and 121 (92%) completed treatment in a planned manner.

Prisons: Internet

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have facilities to access the internet *(a)* from their cell and *(b)* from prison premises other than their cells. [15009]

Mr Blunt: Figures recording how many prisoners are permitted access to the internet are not compiled centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by asking each prison to analyse local records.

Selected prisoners who have undergone a thorough risk assessment are allowed supervised access to a very restricted number of specific learning sites on the internet for educational purposes.

There are significant security processes in place to ensure that IT access is monitored and cannot be abused by prisoners.

Prisons: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to build a new prison in East Lancashire. [15109]

Mr Blunt: In October 2009, the Ministry of Justice began a site search for sites suitable for 1,500-place prisons in the priority areas of North West England, North Wales, West Yorkshire and Greater London. A number of sites in the North West have been put forward, including in Lancashire.

We will look in detail over the coming months at the sentencing frameworks for adult and young offenders, as well as the full range of penalties available in the criminal justice system.

Long-term decisions on prison capacity programmes will be taken in the light of these policy developments. We will ensure that we meet prison capacity requirements more efficiently to improve value for money for the taxpayer and contribute savings to help reduce the budget deficit.

Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate was for *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* those from ethnic minority backgrounds who have served a (i) custodial and (ii) community sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [15132]

Mr Blunt: Tables 1 and 2 show the number and one-year reoffending rate of adult offenders who were released from custody or commenced a court order under probation supervision in the first quarter of 2008. Table 1 gives a breakdown of reoffending rates by gender and index disposal, table 2 gives a breakdown by ethnicity and index disposal.

Table 1: Number of offenders and one year reoffending rate by gender and index disposal, Quarter 1 2008

Gender	*Index disposal*	*Number of offenders*	*Proportion of offenders who reoffend (percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
Male	Custody	14,717	49.0	224.8
	Court orders[1]	31,932	37.0	124.6
	Total	46,649	40.8	156.2
Female	Custody	1,382	53.9	296.2
	Court orders[1]	5,687	31.2	115.1
	Total	7,069	35.6	150.5
Total	Custody	16,099	49.4	230.9
	Court orders[1]	37,619	36.1	123.2
	Total	53,718	40.1	155.5

[1] Court orders include pre-Criminal Justice Act 2003 community sentences, community orders and suspended sentence orders.

Table 2: Number of offenders and one year reoffending rate by ethnicity and index disposal, Quarter 1 2008

Ethnicity	*Index disposal*	*Number of offenders*	*Proportion who reoffend (percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
White	Custody	13,125	51.8	248.7
	Court orders[1]	31,794	37.0	128.1
	Total	44,919	41.3	163.4
Black	Custody	1,690	43.9	175.4
	Court orders[1]	2,950	37.3	114.6
	Total	4,640	39.7	136.8
Asian	Custody	830	36.0	138.8
	Court orders[1]	1,773	31.1	93.6
	Total	2,603	32.7	108.0
Other	Custody	178	28.7	94.4
	Court orders[1]	262	25.2	69.8
	Total	440	26.6	79.8
Not recorded	Custody	276	21.4	89.1
	Court orders[1]	840	12.6	44.3
	Total	1,116	14.8	55.4
Total	Custody	16,099	49.4	230.9
	Court orders[1]	37,619	36.1	123.2
	Total	53,718	40.1	155.5

1 Court orders include pre-Criminal Justice Act 2003 community sentences, community orders and suspended sentence orders.

Reoffending rates shown here should not be used to make direct comparisons between different groups of offenders as there is no control for differences in offender characteristics.

Data on reoffending by ethnicity should be treated with caution as the ethnicity data are derived from an operational policing system and reflect the officer's view of the offender's ethnicity. The classification offers neither the level of detail of other ethnic classifications nor the opportunity for the offender to classify their own ethnic group.

Direct comparisons between the effectiveness of different sentences cannot be made. While the data for offenders commencing court orders show lower reoffending rates than offenders discharged from prison, it is important to note that offenders sentenced to prison have on average a higher probability of reoffending, based on their previous criminal history.

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffending ofadults.htm

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many programmes designed to reduce re-offending among *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* those from ethnic minority backgrounds his Department funded in the last 12 months. [15133]

Mr Blunt: Programmes are funded through establishment baseline funding and the general grant given to Probation Trusts. Information on which programmes have been funded could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NOMS has developed and delivers a range of accredited offending behaviour programmes, designed to address a diverse range of offending. Other activities addressing issues such as accommodation, employment, health, and resettlement as well as interventions agreed locally often involving the community organisations also have a significant part to play.

In addition there are a wide variety of non-accredited interventions delivered locally by prison establishments and probation trusts to meet the particular needs of offenders. Some of these will be funded through other sources.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who have served an indeterminate sentence for public protection have re-offended after release; and what estimate he has made of the number of offences committed by such re-offenders in each of the last five years. [15195]

Mr Blunt: As at 13 September 2010, the National Offender Management Service has been notified of 11 offenders subject to indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) who have been convicted of criminal offences committed following release on licence.

The number of offences committed by the offenders broken down over each of the last five years is given in the table below. One offender reoffended on two separate occasions and so appears twice in the table.

	Number of offenders	*Number of offences*
2010	[1]4	4
2009	6	8
2008	2	2
2007	0	0
2006	0	0

[1] For the period 1 January 2010 until 13 September 2010

These figures have been drawn from the Public Protection and Mental Health Group (PPMHG) database and internal PPMHG paper records. As with any large scale recording systems, they are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

It is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether IPP offenders should be released from custody on licence.

Trials: Shrewsbury Pickets

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had regarding a public inquiry into the trials of the Shrewsbury pickets in the 1970s; and what representations he has received on the publication of all documents relating to those trials. [15679]

Mr Djanogly: Neither my right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Clarke) nor I have held any discussions about a public inquiry into the trials of the Shrewsbury pickets in the 1970s. We have, however recently received a request relating to the availability of information regarding the trials which we are currently considering.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the administrative requirements on *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* retailers of implementing her Department's proposals to ban the sale of alcohol below cost price; [14116]

(2) whether her Department has offered guidance to local authorities considering policies to introduce a minimum price per unit of alcohol. [14149]

Mrs May: We are currently examining the proposal to prohibit the sale of alcohol below cost price, and a range of options is under consideration. The alcohol consultation "Re-balancing the Licensing Act" closed on 8 September. We will now make a full assessment of the administrative requirements of the proposal and its impacts on local authorities and businesses.

The Home Office has not offered guidance to any local authorities concerning the introduction of a minimum unit price. We are currently undertaking a review of alcohol taxation and pricing, the outcome of which will help to set the Government's agenda, on which measures will be taken forward in relation to alcohol pricing.

Asylum

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effects on those awaiting asylum application determination of the requirement to use the Azure card system as a means of payment for goods and services. [14900]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency maintains a clear distinction between the two support regimes provided to asylum seekers awaiting a determination and failed asylum seekers who have exhausted the asylum process.

Destitute asylum seekers still awaiting a determination on their asylum claim are eligible to receive cash support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. All asylum seekers whose applications have been fully determined and have exhausted their appeal rights are required to leave the UK as soon as possible. Those failed asylum seekers who are destitute and unable to leave the UK immediately due to circumstances beyond their control are provided with more restrictive cashless support under section four of the 1999 Act. It is section 4 for which the Azure card is provided.

The system of section 4 support is integral to the maintenance of a fair and consistent system of immigration control. The limitations on section 4 support reflects its temporary nature, and are necessary to avoid creating an incentive for failed asylum seekers to remain in the UK and placing additional pressure on limited public funds.

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency has undertaken a review of its policy on dawn raids for the removal of failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants as a result of the report by the independent chief inspector of the UK Border Agency. [13222]

Damian Green: Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 placed a statutory safeguarding duty for children on the UK Border Agency, which we take very seriously. On its introduction we reviewed our guidance for immigration officers undertaking home visits and we have clear guidance on the time of day a visit should take place.

Where immigration officers are planning a visit all factors are considered. If a child or children are in a family that are being visited, a member of the team will be aware of them specifically and their welfare will be that staff member's prime concern. Visits to home addresses are undertaken as sensitively as possible.

We keep our guidance and staff activity under continuous review and following the review of family removals by the independent chief inspector we have accepted that while our guidance is clear, there is some assurance work to be done. In particular we have committed to make sure that our officers are taking an individual approach to each case when planning visits and assessing when the best time to visit a family should be.

CCTV: Regulation

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring forward legislative proposals regulating the use of CCTV. [1[illegible]38]

James Brokenshire: The Government are giving consideration to the key issues around the further regulation of CCTV and will be bringing forward proposals shortly.

Criminal Investigation: EU Action

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the initial draft of the European Investigation Order. [13919]

Mrs May: I have not had any direct discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice regarding the European Investigation Order. He was among the Ministers who were consulted on the decision to opt in to the Order and Home Office and Ministry of Justice officials have however been in regular contact about the European Investigation Order since it was published.

Deportation

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals of each country of origin were deported from the UK in each of the last 12 months. [15482]

Damian Green: The table showing the number of removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom, by country of nationality from July 2009 to June 2010 will be placed in the Library of the House.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of Pakistan have been refused UK visas by entry clearance officers in Abu Dhabi in the most recent period for which figures are available. [15110]

Damian Green: A total of 80,000 Pakistani nationals have been refused UK visas by entry clearance officers in Abu Dhabi since 1 November 2008 when our visa section in Abu Dhabi assumed responsibility for processing all non-settlement visa applications lodged in Pakistan.

This figure has been rounded and is based on management information (1 November 2008 to 30 June 2010). It is provisional and subject to change.

Immigration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many immigration cases her Department recorded intercession by an hon. Member in 2009-10. [14914]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency do not keep statistics of the volume of correspondence from MPs that leads to intervention and any attempt to capture this information could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

However, in the year 2009 the UK Border Agency received 66,320 inquiries by letter or email, and 25,322 inquiries by telephone—a total of 91,642 inquires from Members of Parliament.

Immigration Controls: English Language

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps were taken to ensure that the new English language requirements for spouses joining British nationals are compatible with the relevant provisions of *(a)* section 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 and *(b)* the European Convention on Human Rights. [14111]

Mrs May: We have taken appropriate steps in the development of the proposed new language requirements for spouses and partners to take into account the European Convention on Human Rights and in particular article 8 (the right to respect for private and family life) of the convention.

Licensed Premises

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many licences to sell alcohol for continuous 24-hour periods had been issued to each type of establishment in each local authority area on the most recent date for which figures are available; [14051]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect of implementation of proposals in her Department's consultation on Rebalancing the Licensing Act on the number of 24-hour alcohol licences in operation. [14117]

Mrs May: We are currently examining the proposal to prohibit the sale of alcohol below cost price, and a range of options are under consideration. The alcohol consultation "Re-balancing the Licensing Act" closed on 8 September. We will make a full assessment of the effect of the proposal on businesses, including those holding a 24-hour premise licence, in due course.

Some 7,178 premises licences were in force on 31 March 2009 in England and Wales for the sale or supply of alcohol for 24 hours in their standard timings (as reported by 96% of all licensing authorities). This made up 4% of all premises licences and club premises certificates authorised to sell alcohol. The possession of a 24-hour licence does not necessarily mean that the premises will choose to open for 24 hours.

The coalition agreement made it clear that we intend to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems.

A full breakdown by premises type for each licensing authority can be found here:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/Number_of_premises_with_24_hour_alcohol_licences_by_premise_type_2009.xls

Source:

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing, England and Wales, April 2008 to March 2009.

Licensing Laws

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many appeals against decisions on licensing by local authorities there were in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [14982]

(2) how many premises licensed for the on-sale of alcohol there were in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [14980]

(3) how many designated licensing stress areas there are in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* region. [14983]

Mrs May: Data relating to the number of cumulative impact zones (CIZs) are included in table 1.

Data relating to appeals against decisions on licensing by local authorities over the last three years is included in tables 2-4.

Data on the number of on-trade licensed premises over the last three years are included in tables 5-7.

Copies of the tables will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Data for 2009-10 will be published on 29 September 2010.

The coalition agreement made it clear that we intend to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems.

A full breakdown by premises type for each licensing authority can be found here:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/Number_of_premises_with_24_hour_alcohol_licences_by_premise_type_2009.xls

Source:

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing, England and Wales, April 2008-March 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 29 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr N. Kalbi. [15180]

Damian Green: I replied to the right hon. Gentleman on 16 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 30 July 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr S. Parvaz. [15184]

Damian Green: I replied to the right hon. Member on behalf of the Home Secretary on 15 September.

National Crime Agency

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she made of the cost to her Department of abolishing the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and establishing the National Crime Agency; [14313]

(2) pursuant to her Department's consultation on policing in the 21st century, whether the proposed border police force is to replace the UK Border Agency; and what estimate she has made of the effect of implementation of her proposals on the staffing level of *(a)* the UK Border Agency, *(b)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency and *(c)* other policing bodies. [14052]

Mrs May: The recent consultation document, "Policing in the 21st Century", announced our intention to create a powerful new body of operational crime fighters—the National Crime Agency—to tackle serious organised crime more effectively and strengthen our borders.

The National Crime Agency will include a Border Police Command. This will have the ability to task and co-ordinate those border enforcement operational staff who together will form the new Border Police capability.

As I said in the House on 26 July, we will publish figures on costs and the business case for the National Crime Agency in due course.

Passports

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport applications were returned to applicants because they *(a)* used the wrong colour ink or *(b)* were smiling in their photograph in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what her most recent estimate is of the cost of returning such an application to the applicant. [15615]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not keep records of how many passport applications were returned to applicants because they used the wrong colour of ink or were smiling in their photograph.

Therefore, IPS is unable to provide an estimate of the cost of returning such an application to the applicant.

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children taken into custody by the UK Border Agency in Scotland have been detained at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre since the ending of child detention at Dungavel was announced. [13212]

Damian Green: Records show that one family, comprising one adult and one child, taken into custody in Scotland, has been detained at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since 19 May 2010.

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of the geographical incidence of cancer cases in England; and what cancer clusters it has identified. [15473]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 15 September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary question asking what assessment has been made of the geographical incidence of cancer cases in England; and which cancer clusters have been identified where the rate in a locality is significantly above average. (15473)

The Cancer Atlas of the United Kingdom and Ireland 1991-2000, describes the information on geographical patterns in cancer incidence and mortality across the four countries of the UK and Ireland for the 21 common cancers and relates these patterns to risk factors and socio-economic deprivation. This can be downloaded from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14059&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Information on clusters of cancer cases is not readily available. Such analyses are normally carried out as part of individual scientific studies and are not published as official statistics.

Charities: Fraud

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on reducing the number of fraudulent charity collections. [14796]

Mr Hurd: While I meet with ministerial colleagues on a regular basis, I have not had any discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on this specific issue.

Citizenship

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in establishing the National Citizen Service programme; whether the programme will include emergency life skills training for participants; and if he will make a statement. [15246]

Mr Hurd: A commissioning process to select providers for National Citizen Service pilot schemes in summer 2011 was opened on 2 August. The deadline for completed expressions of interest was 25 August. Organisations or consortia successful at this stage have now been notified and invited to submit a full proposal by 6 October. In common with all Government programmes, the scale of the pilots will be subject to the spending review. Successful bidders will be announced in late October.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the National Citizen Service is a challenging and enjoyable experience for young people which equips them with skills to make a difference in their communities. It will be for NCS providers to define the precise activities young people will undertake on their NCS schemes, within the parameters set out in the NCS specification documents. As the NCS programme progresses, my department will continue to work with NCS providers on developing the content for training and skills development activities.

Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* Central Office of Information, *(b)* National School of Government, *(c)* Civil Service in the English Regions, *(d)* DirectGov *(e)* Minority Ethnic Talent Association stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12831]

Mr Maude: The costs of the stands at Civil Service Live 2010 are as follows:

Organisation	*Cost incl. VAT (£)*
(a) Central Office of Information	16,500
(b) National School of Government	0
(c) Civil Service in the English Regions	10,691
(d) DirectGov	4,744
(e) Minority Ethnic Talent Association	7,638

Data Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to bring forward legislation to enshrine a right to data, as set out in the coalition agreement; and if he will make a statement. [15690]

Mr Maude: As set out in the coalition agreement, we will create a new 'right to data' so that government-held datasets can be requested and used by the public and then published on a regular basis.

Following this commitment, a significant amount has already been achieved and the last few months have seen us deliver on our promise to radically shake-up what transparency means in government.

We have already taken those important first steps and released information about people, jobs and salaries that had been previously unavailable data, so that people can start to hold politicians and government to account.

We have set up the Transparency Board—which I chair—to keep pushing the transparency agenda and ensure our commitments continue to be implemented across government as announced by the Prime Minister—in his letter to Cabinet Ministers on 29 May—which include publication of important data held by central Government, quangos, local government and police forces.

Furthermore, the draft Public Data Principles, published by the Transparency Board in June, provide a practical framework to promote re-use and open standards.

We are continuing to develop our thinking on how best to implement the new 'right to data', supported by the Transparency Board.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many chairs his Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12792]

Mr Maude: In 2000 and 2002, the Cabinet Office moved into the newly refurbished Admiralty Arch and 22/26 Whitehall respectively. Approximately 500 chairs of varying types were purchased on each occasion. Other than this, the Cabinet Office has only purchased chairs on an ad hoc basis to replace broken items or to meet health and safety requirements, because the chairs purchased in 2000-02 still have several years' life left in them.

The detailed information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office employs to consider (i) departmental and (ii) national strategy; what output such staff are required to produce; and if he will make a statement. [15601]

Mr Maude: As part of the Government's transparency agenda, the Cabinet Office will be publishing an organogram in the autumn which includes job descriptions and the number of staff working in each area.

Departmental Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what average hourly rate his Department has paid to each employment agency for agency staff in each of the last three years. [12716]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has had a central contract in place for temporary administrative and clerical staff with Reed Recruitment Agency for the last three years. The hourly rate for agency workers supplied varies with the level of skills and knowledge required for an assignment.

The average hourly charge exclusive of VAT paid by the Cabinet Office to Reed Recruitment Agency for agency staff engaged over the last three financial years is set out in the following table:

	Average hourly charge for staff engaged under Reed contract (£)
2007-08	12.83
2008-09	14.40
2009-10	14.93

Changes from year to year reflect the grade level and numbers of staff who have been employed in any particular year.

While this contract provides the majority of the Department's agency workers, there are occasions where Management Units engage agency workers from other suppliers because individuals with relevant skills are not available via the central contract. Information on locally-arranged engagements is not held centrally. To provide the information requested would involve individual Management Units interrogating records of individual contracts for agency workers and collating average hourly rates. This could only be done by exceeding the threshold for disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15485]

Mr Maude: For severance payments made to Ministers who left the Cabinet Office after the last general election, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

The cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Employment: Lone Parents

Mrs Grant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average employment rate was for single parents aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 21 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* over 40 years old in the most recent year for which figures are available. [14725]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 15 September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning what the average employment rate was for single parents aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 21 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 40, *(d)* over 40 years old in the most recent year for which figures are available. (14725)

The information requested is given in the table attached. The information provided is from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets for the period January to December 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. That margin of uncertainty is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the unknown, true value for 95% of all possible samples.

Table 1 Employment rate[1] for lone parents by age: United Kingdom, January-December 2008

	Percentage	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
Under 20	18.5	13.9	23.1
21-30	40.2	38.1	42.3
31-40	57.6	55.9	59.3
Over 40	68.4	66.9	69.9

[1] For people aged 16 to 64.

[2] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:
APS household datasets

Government Departments: ICT

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to reduce costs and improve services by smarter procurement of IT services for Government Departments; and if he will make a statement. [15687]

Mr Maude: We have already taken major steps to reduce costs through the implementation of an immediate freeze on all new ICT spend above £1 million; a review of the Government's biggest projects, including ICT projects, to see where costs can be reduced or wasteful projects stopped altogether; and the renegotiation of contracts with major suppliers across government. We have also mandated that all spending on common goods and service categories by Government Departments, which will include some ICT spend, should take place through centrally agreed contracting vehicles.

To underpin this, the Government are currently working towards publishing a Government ICT Strategy, which will help Government to become a better and more intelligent buyer of ICT.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Redundancy Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 434W, on Ministerial policy advisers: redundancy pay, when he expects to publish details of severance payments made to special advisers in each department made redundant at the general election. [15476]

Mr Maude: The cost of severance payments made to special advisers made redundant at the last general election is expected to be published before the end of the year.

Older People

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female centenarians there were in each (i) constituency and (ii) region in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [15637]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) male and (b) female centenarians there were in England and Wales in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) constituency and (ii) region (15637).

Population estimates for the very elderly (including centenarians) are published by the Office for National Statistics for England and Wales combined. The table below contains the estimated number of centenarians for the latest three years, 2006 to 2008

Estimated number of centenarians, 2006-08, England and Wales

	2006	2007	2008
Males	1,100	1,200	1,300
Females	7,500	8,100	8,400
Total	8,600	9,300	9,600

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest hundred.
Estimates are not produced for the number of centenarians broken down by constituency or region.

Personal Income

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the average income of households in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Carlisle was on the latest date for which figures are available; [14666]

(2) what the average income of individuals in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Carlisle was on the latest date for which figures are available. [14665]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking what the average income of individuals in (a) the UK, (b) Cumbria and (c) Carlisle was at the latest date for which figures are available. (14665); and, what the average income of households in (a) the UK, (b) Cumbria and (c) Carlisle was at the latest date for which figures are available. (14666)

Table 1 shows the estimated average net weekly equivalised household income (both before and after housing costs) in the UK in 2008/09 and in Cumbria and Carlisle in 2007/08 at 2008/09 prices where data are available. Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council tax. The incomes are equivalised to take account of each household's size and composition, in: recognition of how these affect their standard of living. Data for individuals are not available.

The estimates provided for the UK are based on data from the Households Below Average Income series produced by the Department for Work and Pensions, and small area statistics for Cumbria and Carlisle produced by the ONS.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised[1] household income[2] in the UK, Cumbria and Carlisle, 2008/09[3,4]

£ per week

	Median		*Mean*	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
United Kingdom	407	343	507	433
Cumbria	—	—	444	403
Carlisle[5]	—	—	447	403

[1] Data are based on the modified OECD equalisation factors which account for variations in household size and composition between survey years.

[2] Household incomes are presented net of income tax payments, national insurance contributions and council tax. Data for individuals are not available.

[3] Estimates for the UK are for 2008-09. Estimates for Cumbria and Carlisle are for 2007-08 in 2006-09 prices.

[4] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

[5] Data are for the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundary.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, and Office for National Statistics

Public Sector: Trade Unions

Sajid Javid: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the public sector workforce in *(a)* each Government Department and *(b)* each other public body are trades union members. [13917]

Mr Maude: According to the Labour Force Survey, in the fourth quarter of 2009, an estimated 56.2% of employees in the UK's public sector were members of a trade union.

These figures cannot be disaggregated to individual public sector employers.

Public Sector: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will rank by proportion and number public sector workers in each constituency in North Wales in descending order of magnitude. [15683]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the ranking of percentage and number of public sector workers for each constituency in North Wales in descending order. (15683)

I regret that estimates of public sector workers on a. constituency basis are not available. Figures at a government office region are available from the Public Sector Employment release. Further information on these figures can be found at the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk

Strategy Unit

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place in the Library a copy of the full Fundamental Savings Review document prepared by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit in 2005-06. [14395]

Mr Maude: The Fundamental Savings Review was published by Her Majesty's Treasury as Releasing the resources to meet the challenges ahead: value for money in the 2007 comprehensive spending review and is available from its website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/csr07_releasingresources1_130706.pdf

A copy will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Street Collection Permits

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many street collection permits were granted by each local authority in each of the last five years. [14797]

Mr Hurd: Licenses for street and house to house collections are generally granted by local licensing authorities in England and Wales and records are not kept centrally.

Unemployment

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have been unemployed for *(a)* under 12 months, *(b)* between one year and five years and *(c)* over five years. [15588]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 15 September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been unemployed for (a) under 12 months, (b) between one year and five years and (c) over five years. (15588)

The table provided shows Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates covering the information requested.

Unemployment levels for people aged 16 and over by duration, three month periods ending June, 2010, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Thousand
12 months and under	*1,630
Between 1 and 5 years	*721
5 years and over	***78
Total[1]	*2,433

[1] Includes those who did not state their duration of unemployment.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Unemployment: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Carlisle constituency have been unemployed for (a) under 12 months, (b) between one year and five years and (c) over five years. [15587]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Carlisle constituency have been unemployed for (a) under 12 months, (b) between one year and five years and (c) over five years. (15587)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested durations and geography are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons resident in the Carlisle constituency, in August 2010, who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for (a) up to 52 weeks, (b) over 52 weeks and up to 260 weeks and (c) over 260 weeks.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim residing in Carlisle constituency—August 2010

	Number
Up to 52 weeks	1,490
Over 52 weeks and up to 260 weeks	195
Over 260 weeks	0
Total	1,685

Note:

Data rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mrs Grant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on implementation of his proposals for a National Citizen Service; and what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* youth charities, *(b)* social enterprises and *(c)* business on the implementation of the scheme. [14729]

Mr Hurd: A commissioning process to select providers for NCS pilot schemes in summer 2011 was opened on 2 August. The deadline for completed expressions of interest was 25 August.

Organisations or consortiums successful at this stage have now been notified and invited to submit a full proposal by 6 October. In common with all Government programmes, the scale of the pilots will be subject to the spending review. Successful bidders will be announced in late October.

I have discussed the development of NCS with a variety of organisations in the youth, social enterprise and private sectors; their input to the development of the scheme is very important and I will continue to engage with all sectors as the scheme progresses.

TRANSPORT

A417: Accidents

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse of emergency services attending incidents called out at and in the vicinity of the A417 between Nettleton Down and Gloucester was in the last 12 months. [13397]

Mike Penning: No estimate of the cost is held by the Department for Transport. Highways Agency traffic officers are not classed as an emergency service, their role is to manage the traffic on motorways and key trunk 'A' roads in England, where they perform a number of control room and on-road functions.

Specifically the role of the Traffic Officer Service involves:

managing incidents, except where there is loss of life, injury or potential criminal activity;

setting signs and signals and answering emergency roadside telephones;

arranging the removal of damaged or broken down/abandoned vehicles;

removing debris and other obstructions from the carriageway.

Airports

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the National Policy Statement for Airports for consultation. [15209]

Mrs Villiers: The Government will make an announcement on national policy statements in due course.

Aviation: Security

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of whether the use of body scanners at London Heathrow, London Gatwick and Manchester airports is in compliance with Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998; and if he will make a statement; [15697]

(2) what recent representations he has received from religious groups on the use of body scanners at UK airports; [15698]

(3) what penalty will be imposed on airport operators that breach the Interim Code of Practice for the Acceptable Use of Advanced Imaging Technology in an Aviation Security Environment; [15699]

(4) what assessment he has made of alternative methods of security screening available for airport passengers who do not wish to be scanned by a body scanner on religious or medical grounds. [15700]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise that the use of security scanners may engage issues relevant to human rights. However, such rights are not absolute and the Government believe that the use of security scanners as an aviation security measure at UK airports is necessary, proportionate and legitimate.

Security scanners have been deployed in the interests of protecting national security, public safety and the prevention and detection of crime, and the Government believe that their use is consistent with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Government have received several responses from religious-based organisations to the public consultation on the interim code of practice for the use of security scanners in aviation security, which closed on 19 July. The Government are examining all of the responses before deciding on the next steps.

The Code of Practice forms part of a Direction on airport operators made under the Aviation Security Act 1982. The penalties for failing to comply with a directed requirement are set out in the 1982 Act.

The Government assess that the only alternative that would reveal carefully concealed items would be an intimate hand search, conducted in private and which may involve the loosening and removal of clothing. The Government believe that this, by its nature, would be far more intrusive, and a much greater invasion of privacy, than the use of a security scanner. Such searches raise issues about the training, staff and resource burdens that carrying out such searches would impose on airport operators, and the impact on passenger throughput times at security checkpoints. However, this issue is being carefully considered in light of the public consultation before decisions are taken on the future use of security scanners.

Bus Services: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to maintain current funding levels for the Bus Service Operators Grant for the next three years. [14744]

Norman Baker: An impact assessment was published in March 2008 alongside a consultation document on options for bus subsidy reform. A subsequent impact assessment was published in December 2009. Decisions on the future levels of Bus Service Operators Grant will be taken as part of the spending review.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for future funding levels for the Bus Service Operators Grant in rural areas. [14382]

Norman Baker: The Government will consider the Bus Service Operators Grant as part of the spending review. Decisions will be made, and announced, in due course.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effects on the level of provision of public bus services in rural areas of the ending of the Bus Service Operators Grant. [14472]

Norman Baker: An impact assessment was published in March 2008 alongside a consultation document on options for bus subsidy reform. A subsequent impact assessment was published in December 2009. Decisions on the future levels of Bus Service Operators Grant will be taken as part of the spending review.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars used the assisted crossing service when using the Dartford Crossing in each of the last 10 years. [15324]

Mike Penning: A detailed analysis of the use of the assisted crossing service was carried out between 1 May and 30 June 2009. This found that 49 drivers were helped to make 160 assisted crossings. Of these, one driver was assisted 34 times, one 17 times and one 15 times; most of the remaining drivers were assisted occasionally, averaging fewer than one crossing per week.

Following this review, an operational decision was made to withdraw from providing assistance from 1 August 2009, in advance of a new contract coming into effect.

Dee Harbour Revision Order

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects the Dee Harbour Revision Order to be approved by his Department by the end of 2010. [15642]

Mike Penning: I expect this application to be determined before the end of 2010, subject to satisfactory completion of statutory processes.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the Dee Harbour Revision Order was first submitted to his Department for approval. [15691]

Mike Penning: This application was first submitted to the Department for Transport on 20 January 2005.

The Environment Agency applied for a harbour revision order in January 2005 the effect of which would be to confer powers on the agency to facilitate the implementation of the Port Marine Safety Code, modernise the agency's conservancy functions and enable ship dues to be collected.

This followed an application from the Mostyn Docks Limited in April 2003 for a harbour revision order for Mostyn Dock, which abuts into the Dee estuary, the effect of which would be to confer powers on that company to facilitate the implementation of the Port Marine Safety Code and to extend the powers of the company in respect of aids to navigation, wreck removal, pilotage functions and harbour jurisdiction over an area of the estuary.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997 [13044]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was established following machinery of Government changes on 29 May 2002. Details of costs for the period prior to 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's spend on reimbursement of staff expenses for the last seven financial years for the central Department; the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; the Driving Standards Agency; the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency; and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency can be found in the following table:

Financial year	*Reimbursement of staff expenses (£)*
2009-10	11,478,883
2008-09	13,677,881
2007-08	12,607,508
2006-07	13,675,499
2005-06	13,926,275
2004-05	13,142,448
2003-04	11,491,596

We are unable to provide complete information for any of the years without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department is not able to provide information relating to the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997 without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13304]

Norman Baker: The target to pay 90% of invoices within 10 days has been replaced by a target to pay 80% of invoices within five days, and the reply is set out on this basis.

The percentage of invoices paid within five days of receipt for the Department and its agencies for July and August is as follows:

	July 2010	*August 2010*
Central Department	95.5	95.1
Driving Standards	95.6	95.6
Driver and Vehicle Licensing	91.1	88.6
Highways	67.7	86.2
Maritime and Coastguard	94.5	96.6
Vehicle Certification	92.6	95.5
Vehicle and Operator Services	85.1	84.4
Government Car and Despatch	85.4	89.2
Total	84.0	90.5

The departmental commercial terms generally specify that payment will be made within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice.

The percentage of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt for the Department and its agencies for July and August is as follows:

	July 2010	*August 2010*
Central Department	99.5	99.3
Driving Standards	99.8	99.7
Driver and Vehicle Licensing	100.0	99.6
Highways	99.3	99.2
Maritime and Coastguard	99.9	99.9
Vehicle Certification	99.2	100.0
Vehicle and Operator Services	99.7	99.7
Government Car and Despatch	99.2	99.5
Total	99.5	99.5

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13930]

Norman Baker: For the month of July, the number of payments to suppliers by the Department for Transport and its agencies is broken down as follows:

	Under 30 days	*30+ days*	*60+ days*	*90+ days*	*Total*
DFT	3,193	17	9	1	3,220
Agencies	15,698	103	34	17	15,852

The above information is based upon date of receipt of invoice.

The Department for Transport is not required to collect information on payment to suppliers for its non-departmental public bodies.

The Department for Transport has seven executive agencies, as follows:

Highways Agency (HA)
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA).

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9663]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport's intranet includes guidance on briefing for meetings, submissions, speeches and correspondence, and this is updated when required.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each year since 2005. [12442]

Norman Baker: Total expenditure by the central Department and its agencies on consultants in each financial year since 2004-05 is shown in the following table:

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
DfT Central	65.2	64.0	53.6	51.0	51.3	96.5
Highways Agency	115.0	2.4	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.6
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	4.8	1.9	18.0	18.4	12.8	4.2
Driving Standards Agency	3.6	1.2	5.1	3.5	3.4	0.9
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	3.4	1.4	3.0	3.7	1.8	3.9
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.4	2.3
Vehicle Certification Agency	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Government Car and Despatch Agency[2]	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3

[1] These figures are highly provisional and will be subject to more rigorous scrutiny as part of the Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey which is currently under way. The figure of £3.9 million for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency includes £3.0 million spent on the Testing Transformation Programme which has been fully funded by the central Department.
[2] Joined DfT from 2005-06.

The Business Units within the Department currently use separate accounting systems which record expenditure differently. The totals include a mixture of committed spend (i.e. orders raised) and actual spend incurred, including orders raised within the context of framework agreements. The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 resulting in more accurate coding of expenditure.

Expenditure figures from 2005-06 exclude central Department and Highways Agency spend on technical transport related consultancy. Expenditure by the Highways Agency on engineering consultancy and Driving Standards Agency capital expenditure such as project management, legal costs, specialist advice, etc., relating to their property related Multi-purpose Test Centres project are excluded.

Expenditure by non-departmental public bodies on external consultancy can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many chairs his Department and its predecessors purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12805]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002. Information for the period prior to this date is not available.

The requested information, where recorded, is provided in the following tables.

Central Department

	London HQ[1]	*Air Accidents Investigation Branch*[2]	*Marine Accident Investigation Branch*[3]	*Rail Accident Investigation Branch*[4]
2002-03				
Quantity	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	—	3,000.00	—

Central Department

	London HQ[1]	*Air Accidents Investigation Branch*[2]	*Marine Accident Investigation Branch*[3]	*Rail Accident Investigation Branch*[4]
2003-04				
Quantity	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	—	—	—
2004-05				
Quantity	—	—	—	121
Cost (£)	—	—	—	12,633.00
2005-06				
Quantity	—	—	—	65
Cost (£)	—	—	—	5,660.00
2006-07				
Quantity	—	—	—	3
Cost (£)	—	—	—	525.00
2007-08				
Quantity	290	—	—	23
Cost (£)	63,966.00	—	—	4,075.00
2008-09				
Quantity	572	—	—	9
Cost (£)	120,059.00	—	—	1,359.00
2009-10				
Quantity	78	—	—	0
Cost (£)	19,892.00	—	21,371.00	0.00

Executive Agencies

	Driving Standards Agency[2]	*Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency*[5]	*Government Car and Despatch Agency*[2]	*Highways Agency*[2]	*Maritime and Coastguard Agency*[2]	*Vehicle and Operator Services Agency*[2]	*Vehicle Certification Agency*[6]
2002-03							
Quantity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,579.00
2003-04							
Quantity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,094.00
2004-05							
Quantity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00
2005-06							
Quantity	—	1,148	—	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	108,305.00	—	—	—	—	194.00
2006-07							
Quantity	—	2,605	—	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	255,695.00	—	—	—	—	357.00
2007-08							
Quantity	—	2,557	—	—	—	—	—
Cost (£)	—	264,355.00	—	—	—	—	775.00
2008-09							
Quantity	—	1,636	—	—	—	—	—

Executive Agencies

	Driving Standards Agency[2]	*Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency*[5]	*Government Car and Despatch Agency*[2]	*Highways Agency*[2]	*Maritime and Coastguard Agency*[2]	*Vehicle and Operator Services Agency*[2]	*Vehicle Certification Agency*[6]
Cost (£)	—	238,364.00	—	—	—	—	3,140.00
2009-10							
Quantity	—	793	—	—	—		
Cost (£)	—	124,990	—	—	—	—	4,401.00

[1] Data on expenditure in previous years are not available.
[2] Data are not held at the requested level of detail. An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.
[3] A breakdown of individual purchases is not recorded. Spend in other years would be in the range of £0 to £1,000 but this information is only available at disproportionate cost.
[4] Data cover the period of the setting up of the two RAIB Operations Centres (Derby and Woking).
[5] Data are only available for the period from 2005. The DVLA Headquarters site at Swansea undertook a significant refurbishment between 2005 and 2009. This included an upgrade of all chairs in use. Costs also include maintenance of chairs across the DVLA Local Office network.
[6] The VCA accounting system cannot provide a breakdown of individual purchases—only total spend (shown above).

Most expensive chairs

£

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
2002-03	250	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2003-04	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2004-05	165	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2005-06	214	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	998	680	489	365	350
2007-08	1,141	1,057	809	764	759
2008-09	1,822	1,401	1,141	1,139	1,097
2009-10	881	809	809	725	710

[1] Not recorded.

The top five most expensive chairs purchased from 2006-07 relate to "specialist chairs" provided to staff following recommendations by our Occupational Health provider.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10120]

Norman Baker: During May and June 2010, Ministers in the Department for Transport spent a total of £377.52 on food and soft drinks. This relates to an Armed Forces Day on 23 June 2010, hosted by Mike Penning, for armed forces veterans and serving reservists from across the central Department and its agencies. There was no other expenditure for hospitality events during this period.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [14931]

Norman Baker: I am aware of only one such event in July, when the Department for Transport spent £19.80 on refreshments at a meeting which I chaired. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15405]

Norman Baker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr Maude) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W, which lists the total severance payments made to Ministers from each Department who left office following the general election.

The Government publish annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Driving Tests: Special Needs

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from representatives of disability organisations on proposed changes to the driving test; and what representations he has received on making provision for those with special needs to enable them to take the test. [15481]

Mike Penning: The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) made representations in summer 2010 regarding the introduction of 'independent driving' into the practical driving test. The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has also received similar written representations from driving instructors who teach candidates with special learning needs. The agency then worked with the BDA to ensure that implementation arrangements will not discriminate against candidates with dyslexia.

As part of reforming the way that people learn to drive and are tested, we are introducing, from 4 October, an assessment of a candidate's ability to drive safely and make decisions independently (known as independent driving), to mirror what they will have to do once they have passed their test.

When developing proposals for independent driving, the DSA commissioned the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) to conduct independent trials, which included non-English speaking participants and participants with a disability. The majority of the participants perceived the independent driving exercises to be socially inclusive, but the participants who considered themselves dyslexic reported that they had found the independent driving exercises more challenging.

DSA took into account potential difficulties that these groups may face when designing the independent driving tasks and further engaged with the BDA, which advised on the formatting of the supporting diagrams.

The methods adopted to help dyslexic candidates perform the independent driving task will also be useful for candidates with learning difficulties, especially if they have difficulties in reading or following a sequence of instructions.

Driving: Eyesight

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish his consultation paper on the minimum standards for drivers with diabetes, epilepsy and vision required under EC Directive 2009/113/EEC. [14647]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The Department aims to issue a consultation document by the end of the year.

The Department's officials, with the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panels, have been considering how the directive should be applied in the UK. The Department will await the outcome of the consultation on proposals before making changes.

Driving: Licensing

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licence photographic renewals the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has processed in each of the last three years; and how much revenue the Agency received from such renewals in each such year. [14649]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency started renewing photographs on driving licences in April 2008. The following figures reflect the volumes which have been processed since April 2008.

	Volume	*Fee (£)*	*Volume x fee (£)*
2007-08	0	0	0
2008-09	306,006	17.50	5,355,105
2009-10	1,465,528	20.00	29,310,560

Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the average number of transfer passengers on aircraft movements taking place at Heathrow Airport *(a)* before 0600 hours and *(b)* between 0600 and 0700 hours. [13903]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold estimates of the number of transfer passengers at Heathrow airport by time of day. However, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) does hold information on the number of air transport movements, the total number of passengers and the number of transit passengers at Heathrow by time of day. This information is not published but is available on request from the CAA.

Highways Agency: Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service has. [12140]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service has 1,717 operational staff in total as at 31 July 2010, this figure is broken down as follows:

	Number
On road traffic officers	1,090
On road team managers	178
Control room operators	328
Control room managers	69
Operation managers	45
Regional operation managers	7

Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on the level of accidents involving mobility scooters. [15288]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* I have discussed this matter with my colleague, the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) and with officials as part of a wider consideration of the topic of mobility scooters.

We are aware that the number of mobility vehicles is on the increase. In 2010 the Department initiated a survey to help assess the number of mobility scooter users and the extent to which their use may have injured people. I will be considering its conclusions as part of an overall review of the laws governing the use of mobility vehicles. The results of the survey can be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221513/mobilityscoooters/attitudestowardsmobilityscooters1.pdf

The Department for Transport published research in 2006 into the use of Class 2 and Class 3 mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs which can be viewed on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/tipws/pwps/

The research did not suggest that mobility vehicles have a significant impact on road safety.

King's Cross-Stevenage Railway Line: Overcrowding

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what definition of overcrowding his Department uses for passenger train carriages on services running between King's Cross and *(a)* Stevenage and *(b)* Royston. [14915]

Mrs Villiers: Train operating companies submit morning and evening peak train plans to the Department for Transport for May and December timetable changes each year. Overcrowding levels are assessed by comparing counts of passengers against the plans.

The specific arrangements for each operator can be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/

The services in question are delivered by First Capital Connect.

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent capacity surveys have been undertaken in respect of the railway line between King's Cross and Stevenage; what recent representations he has received on overcrowding on trains; and if he will make a statement. [14956]

Mrs Villiers: Franchised train operators are required by the Department for Transport to undertake passenger counts as part of their franchise agreements. Train counts are requested from all relevant operators twice yearly, for the morning and evening peak demand, counting arriving train passengers between 7 am and 9.59 am and departing passengers between 4 pm and 6.59 pm. The most recent surveys were undertaken during spring 2010.

Statistics on train crowding are published by the Office of Rail Regulation in the National Rail Trends Yearbook, which is available in the House Library, or from the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

- www.rail-reg.gov.uk

The National Rail Trends Yearbook contains 'passengers in excess of capacity' (PiXC) statistics showing overcrowding on London commuter services. Latest published statistics are for the autumn 2009 period.

No recent representations have been received on overcrowding on trains.

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the level of overcrowding on trains on the line between Stevenage and King's Cross. [14957]

Mrs Villiers: Train operating companies submit morning and evening peak train plans to the Department for Transport for May and December timetable changes each year. Overcrowding levels are assessed by comparing counts of passengers against the plans.

Passenger counts data are assessed against the agreed seated and standing capacity of each train and the extent of crowding is calculated. The assessment informs the plans for the next timetable iteration and the deployment of train capacity. The Department uses the data as the base for strategic forecasts of peak demand change. The latest assessment for First Capital Connect, the train operator that provides the services in question, was for the May timetable change.

London Airports: Passengers

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects his Department to publish revised forecasts for passenger numbers for Stansted and other airports in the South East over the period to 2030; and whether these will include detailed projections for each airport. [15210]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport published forecasts of the number of air passengers using UK airports, including Stansted Airport, most recently in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2009". The Department keeps its forecasts under review and will publish updated forecasts as appropriate.

National Air Traffic Services

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his plans are for the future of the Government's stake in National Air Traffic Services. [14965]

Mrs Villiers: In accordance with the Budget statement (June 2010), the Government are exploring with other shareholders the options for a potential sale process in National Air Traffic Services. No decisions have yet been made on whether a sale will be proceeded with.

Network Rail: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* amount of funding and *(b)* other support his Department has provided to Network Rail's Railway Communications Systems project. [13895]

Mrs Villiers: Railway communications systems projects are the responsibility of Network Rail. They are included as part of the funding allocated in the periodic review 2008, the delivery of which is monitored by the Office of Rail Regulation.

The Network Rail Delivery Plan of 31 March 2010 states that £1,089 million will be expended between 2009-10 and 2013-14 on Telecommunications of which £829 million is for the Fixed Telecommunications Network/ Global System for Mobile Communications—Railways (FTN/GSM-R)—projects.

Parking: Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of outstanding parking fines owed to local authorities by drivers of foreign-registered vehicles. [13270]

Norman Baker: This information is not collected by central Government. However, we estimate that 0.39% of the total number of vehicle miles are done by foreign registered vehicles (FRVs).

If all vehicles had the same propensity to park in contravention, approximately 0.4% of the approximately 9 million penalty charge notices (PCNs) served each year would relate to FRVs—perhaps some 36,000. Local authorities may use private debt collection companies that offer to pursue debts through foreign vehicle registration authorities. We understand that up to 40% of foreign keepers will pay a PCN when contacted by such companies.

Public Transport: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve access for disabled individuals to train services serving *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* other cities in England. [15798]

Norman Baker: The coalition Government place a high value on initiatives that promote equality and fairness. The Railways for All programme, launched by the previous Government, is currently installing level access routes at 148 priority stations across the railway network, and this is in addition to major programmes of investment and the commitments in rail franchises. Coventry station itself has not been identified for enhancement, as lift access to platforms is already provided.

In addition, all new trains entering service since 1998 have been required to meet modern accessibility standards. Almost 6,200 rail vehicles that meet those requirements are now in service, including the Pendolino high speed trains that serve Coventry. All rail vehicles must be accessible by January 2020.

The Government remain committed to improving access to rail travel. However, in common with other Departments we are carrying out a spending review which requires that we reassess a number of programmes for affordability. We are also carrying out a public consultation on the future of rail franchising. Once these have concluded we will be able to say more about our future plans.

Public Transport: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* bus and coach transport providers and *(c)* passengers of implementation of the proposed regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending regulation (EC) No. 2006/2004 (05218/2010-C7-0077.2010-2008.00237(COD)); and if he will make a statement. [15010]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport produced a post-consultation impact assessment on the European Commission's draft regulation concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport in December 2009. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. This indicated that the proposal would be likely to place a significant cost on the industry which could be passed on to passengers through higher fares. There would also be enforcement costs which are expected to fall to the Department.

Since then the Transport Council of Ministers agreed significant changes to the original proposal which should reduce the cost to industry. However, the European Parliament has opposed some of these changes, and so negotiations on the text are ongoing. We will continue to argue that the regulation needs to be proportionate and practical in its application. We will produce an updated impact assessment once the text is finalised.

Public Transport: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on future funding for *(a)* bus services in London and *(b)* London Underground services. [14889]

Mrs Villiers I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 266W.

Railways

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made by his Department of the feasibility of the plans put forward by the Association of Train Operating Companies in 2009 to reinstate former railway lines; and if he will make a statement. [14573]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is not currently undertaking any formal assessments of the feasibility of the list of re-opening schemes suggested by the Association of Train Operating Companies, although we fully recognise the value of the work they have carried out on this issue. The lines and stations they have identified for re-opening would, for the most part, focus on improving local connectivity. It is therefore open to the relevant local transport authorities to consider whether re-opening might be an affordable and appropriate way to meet local transport needs, within the constraints of available funding.

Railways Act 2005

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on *(a)* the provisions of the Railways Act 2005 in respect of permitted closure of level crossings and *(b)* the effect on the economy of Lincoln, Lincolnshire and the East Midlands of Network Rail's proposal for revised hourly closures of the Lincoln High Street level crossing. [14919]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* Department for Transport Ministers have received recent representations on the second of these issues from my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Karl McCartney), the leader of Lincolnshire county council and the leader of Lincoln city council.

The operation of Lincoln High Street Level Crossing is an operational matter for Network Rail.

Railways: Construction

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to Appendix K of the Route Frequency Study Final Report for High Speed Two, what public consultation he plans to carry out on the location of the marshalling depot referred to in paragraph K-9.3.3 of the Appendix; and if he will make a statement. [12937]

Mr Philip Hammond: The potential location of a rolling stock maintenance depot will be included in the consultation which I have asked HS2 Ltd to be in a position to launch early in the new year.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account he has taken of *(a)* the (i) cost and benefit and (ii) environmental impact of high speed rail operation at different design speeds and *(b)* the design speeds of high speed rail systems in (A) France, (B) Germany and (C) other countries in determining the most suitable design speed for High Speed Two. [12938]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd has considered these issues in detail. Its findings are published in its report and supporting technical documents published by the Government in March 2010. These documents can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail

HS2 Ltd's proposals assume a potential maximum future line speed of approximately 250 miles per hour (mph), where route topographical, train performance and sustainability considerations would permit. However, the journey times and modelled benefits included in its report are based on current train technologies and therefore assume a maximum speed of 225 mph (subject to the same topographical and other considerations).

This approach is broadly in line with current practice in Europe and Asia, where most major lines currently under construction or recently completed have been designed for a maximum line speed of 225 mph, but lines in development are being designed for eventual speeds up to 250 mph and 275 mph respectively. Shorter 'in-fill' sections of high speed route linking conventional lines generally continue to be designed for 160-200 mph.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* minimum peak ticket prices and *(b)* minimum daily passenger numbers in each year were assumed for a journey between Birmingham and London as part of the business case for High Speed Two; and if he will publish the full business case. [13075]

Mr Philip Hammond: The business case behind HS2 Ltd's recommendations is detailed in its 'Demand and Appraisal Report', which can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/demandandappraisal

The business case assumes that the average fare is the same as fares on the classic rail network in 2033, and that the structure of fares is in line with that operating today.

The number of passengers is forecast using detailed transport models. The model estimates that around 145,000 passengers per day in 2033 would travel on HS2 services, of whom approximately 54,000 would travel between the west midlands stations (Fazeley Street and Birmingham Interchange) and London stations (Euston and Old Oak Common).

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the full business case for High Speed Rail II. [15285]

Mr Philip Hammond: A detailed business case for High Speed Two —the proposed line between London and the west midlands—was published by HS2 Limited in March 2010. In addition to the summary of the business case provided in the company's main report, the full detail is presented in its 'HS2 Demand and Appraisal Report'. This is on the Department for Transport website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the full environmental impact assessment for High Speed Rail II. [15360]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications his Department had received for payments under the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme on the latest date for which figures are available. [15532]

Mr Philip Hammond: As of 13 September 2010, the High Speed Two Exceptional Hardship Scheme had received 38 applications.

Railways: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Transport for London on Government funding for work to upgrade the London Underground network. [14099]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 266W.

Railways: Public Consultation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether mechanisms are in place to obtain the views of *(a)* potential and *(b)* former customers of rail services in the assessment of the performance of rail franchises. [14447]

Mrs Villiers: None of the current rail franchises require train operators to meet performance targets in relation to potential or former passengers, as distinct from current passengers. The most recently let franchise, South Central, contains passenger satisfaction targets. However all operators have a commercial incentive to fill trains, keep existing passengers and attract new passengers.

The Department for Transport is currently consulting on the future of rail franchising and would welcome views on how passenger preferences and experience should be captured in a new system. The consultation paper is available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-28/

and consultation closes on 18 October.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of passenger views on the adequacy of information on rail ticket choices; and what steps he is taking to ensure that passengers have access to clear information on rail tickets and fares. [14471]

Mrs Villiers: Despite some welcome progress by the rail industry, passengers can still find it difficult to understand which ticket is the best for their journey and where they can buy it. I am challenging the industry to make ticket buying easier for passengers and more efficient for the tax payer.

Railways: Scotland

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of direct train services between London and *(a)* Aberdeen and *(b)* Inverness. [13587]

Mrs Villiers: The current level of direct services between London and Aberdeen and Inverness will continue to be provided when the new East Coast Main Line timetable is introduced in May 2011. The longer term future of direct services between London and Inverness and Aberdeen will be determined by forthcoming decisions on replacement of the current rolling stock.

Road Works

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of giving additional powers to local authorities to prohibit utility companies which fail to repair roads to an acceptable standard from undertaking further street works. [12151]

Norman Baker: An outright prohibition on street works by particular utility companies would put at risk the continuity of supply of essential services and, if it prevented utilities from maintaining and repairing their pipes, cables and other infrastructure, would present a significant risk to public safety.

Local highway authorities can inspect street works sites to ensure that the highway has been reinstated in accordance with the 'Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways' and, where a reinstatement is found to be unsatisfactory, the authority has powers to require the undertaker of the original works to carry out the necessary remedial works at the undertaker's own expense. Should the undertaker fail to do so, the authority can carry out the works itself and recover the costs from the undertaker.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on requiring utility companies undertaking street works to maintain pipes and cables to minimise disruption during such work. [12160]

Norman Baker: It is for local highway authorities to ensure effective management and co-ordination of street works on their highways, where necessary using the powers available to them under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the Traffic Management Act 2004. The Government would particularly encourage local highway authorities to consider the positive contribution that permit schemes can make in reducing the disruption caused by works.

The Government also believe there could be a role for stronger financial incentives to minimise disruption, and are considering responses to a recent consultation on proposals to increase the penalties that can be applied where works overrun on traffic sensitive streets. The Government are also exploring the potential for lane rental schemes targeted on the most critical parts of local highway networks.

The Department for Transport is also working with those involved in street works to progress non-regulatory measures, including the identification and dissemination of best practice in street works management and better use of local performance data to help identify strengths and areas for future improvement.

Roads: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the effect on the number of road accidents of the introduction of zonal 20 mph schemes in *(a)* Portsmouth and *(b)* Oxford; and if he will make a statement. [14817]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has researched the effects of the introduction of widespread 20 mph limits in Portsmouth and has published some preliminary findings. These are at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme4/interimeval20mphspeedlimits.pdf

The preliminary findings include that, in the areas covered by the 20 mph limits, recorded injury accident numbers have reduced from an average of 165 per year, during the three years before the speed limits were introduced, to 144 during the first year afterwards. This reduction of 13% is greater than the percentage fall in accident numbers nationally during the same period. A longer period after the introduction of the speed limits is likely to improve the robustness of the conclusions that can be drawn from the data.

The Department has more recently received accident information for the second year after the implementation of the 20 mph limits. This indicates that the annual average of the number of recorded personal injury accidents during the two years after the limits were introduced was about 21% less than the average during the three years beforehand. Again, nationally the number of accidents has fallen during that period, but by a smaller percentage.

The Department has also assessed the reduction of actual speeds in the areas of Portsmouth covered by the 20 mph speed limits. On average the mean speeds have fallen by about 1.3 mph. Previous research has indicated that such falls in average speeds in urban areas are typically associated with reductions in the numbers of injury accidents of about 7% (5% per mph of average speed reduction), which is consistent with the accident numbers recorded in Portsmouth.

Further findings about the Portsmouth scheme are likely to be published soon.

The Department has not made an assessment of the effects on accidents of the Oxford scheme.

Roads: Environment Protection

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the Highways Agency has not met timescales for cleanliness standards of roads and verges as set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. [13721]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is responsible for motorways and a small number of all-purpose trunk roads in England. Litter collection on all other highways is the responsibility of the relevant local authority.

Litter collection and carriageway sweeping is undertaken by the Highways Agency's service providers, who are required under their contracts to meet the standards of cleanliness set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Act places a duty on authorities to ensure that their land, or land for which they are responsible, is kept clear of litter and refuse in so far as is practicable. Therefore, it cannot be said that the Highways Agency has not met time scales for the cleanliness of its roads and verges, as time scales do not apply under the Act.

Roads: Honiton

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the A303/A30 dual carriageway improvements north of Honiton take place. [13844]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport are not currently progressing the development of options for dualling the A303/A30 north of Honiton.

The Highways Agency are undertaking an A303/A30 corridor management study considering possible improvements to the performance of the corridor through a range of smaller scale options.

Implementation of any proposals from the study would be subject to the availability of funding following the outcome of the current spending review.

Roads: Leicestershire

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the *(a)* value for money, *(b)* environmental impact and *(c)* associated labour costs of materials used to maintain roads in Leicestershire. [15344]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 September 2010]:* The Highways Agency maintains the Strategic Road Network in Leicestershire, namely the M1, A14, M69, A5 and A46. This is achieved through a five-year maintenance contract which was renewed for the area covering Leicestershire in July 2009. As part of the process for awarding this contract the costs of the proposed maintenance programme submitted by each of the tenders were assessed across a range of operations to ensure value for money.

Local road maintenance in the county is a matter for Leicestershire county council and therefore no assessment has been made.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department uses to assess the condition of roads. [15343]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 September 2010]:* The Highways Agency is responsible for managing the strategic road network in England. It carries out annual road surface condition surveys, principally to measure the levels of rutting, the ride quality, general surface condition and the skid resistance provided by the road surface in the wet. In addition, visual surveys and inspections are conducted regularly throughout the year to identify emergency repairs and to support future planned maintenance. Sections requiring potential maintenance are also further investigated to identify the road material quality and the overall structural aspects, as guided by the agency's standards and codes of practices. The agency also takes account of any maintenance issues raised by members of the public. Survey information is recorded either centrally in the agency's asset management systems and/or by the managing agents.

Local road condition is a matter for the relevant local highway authority. Such authorities currently report two National Indicators on road condition (NI168 and NI169). Information about the criteria used to derive these indicators can be found at

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/local/servicelevels/ni168ni169guidance2010.pdf

The same underlying data are used to produce the Department's Highways Condition index, which is published as part of its Road Conditions in England report. The 2009 report sets out the Index's methodology and is available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/maintenance/rce2009

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with local authorities on the efficient distribution of supplies of road salt. [12681]

Norman Baker: In England, procurement of salt supplies for highway gritting are a matter for each local highway authority to determine, based on local priorities. The interim report by the independent review into the response of England's transport system to severe winter weather was published on 26 July:

http://www.independent.gov.uk/transportwinterresilience

In his written ministerial statement welcoming the report, the Secretary of State reminded local highway authorities that they should make appropriate salting provision for their highway networks, and urged them to take forward the recommendations in the report that relate to them.

Over the past few months, the Department for Transport has conducted two surveys of English local authorities, asking about their readiness for the coming winter. Officials have also held discussions with the Local Government Association and the UK Roads Liaison Group about implementing the recommendations of the independent review.

Salt supplies for Scottish and Welsh local authorities and for the Northern Ireland Roads Service are a devolved matter; but my officials have been in touch with the devolved Administrations.

Speed Limits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has provided to local authorities on the introduction of zonal 20 mph schemes in residential areas; and if he will make a statement. [14812]

Mike Penning: Guidance on setting local speed limits, including that for 20 mile per hour zones is contained in Department for Transport Circular 01/2006: Setting Local Speed Limits published in August 2006 and Traffic

Advisory Leaflet 9/99: 20mph Speed Limits and Zones published in June 1999. Copies of both documents are available in the House.

Speed Limits: Fines

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for the level of speeding fines to be calculated in relation to the wealth of the driver and the speed recorded. [13429]

Mike Penning: There are no plans to introduce a system of speeding fines calculated in relation to the wealth of drivers. Nor are there plans to introduce a penalty system with increased fines for those drivers exceeding the speed limit by a significant amount.

Stansted Airport

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will visit the communities around Stansted Airport to discuss issues of planning blight and community reconstruction. [15214]

Mrs Villiers: Unfortunately due to diary commitments, neither the Secretary of State nor I have any immediate plans to visit the communities around Stansted. However, my Department's officials and I will continue to remain in close contact with my right hon. Friend and local residents on any issues of concern.

Stansted Airport: Noise

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the results of the consultation on the Noise Action Plan for Stansted Airport; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish the plan. [15212]

Mrs Villiers: The draft noise action plans submitted by airports have been subject to scrutiny by the Department for Transport (DFT) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to ensure that they meet the requirements of the EU Environmental Noise Directive as set out in DEFRA's March 2009 guidance to airport operators. This guidance requires airports to include details of their local public consultation and how issues raised have been addressed in the draft plan.

Following submission of Stansted airport's draft noise action plan, officials from both the DFT and DEFRA met with airport representatives to discuss the draft. Stansted airport submitted a further draft plan on 27 August for consideration. This draft is currently being given further scrutiny and we expect to take a decision on formal adoption shortly. Once the plan has been formally adopted by Government, it will be published on both DEFRA's and the airport's website.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its predecessors spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12987]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was established following machinery of Government changes on 29 May 2002. Details of costs for the period prior to 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's spend on taxi fares for the last seven financial years can be found in the following table:

Financial year	*Taxi fare spend (£)*
2009-10	[1]189,288
2008-09	[1]224,817
2007-08	[2]60,530
2006-07	[3]66,653
2005-06	[3]57,040
2004-05	[3]44,867
2003-04	[3]36,920

[1] Figures only available for four of the Department's agencies.

[2] Figures only available for three of the Department's agencies.

[3] Figures only available for two of the Department's agencies.

We are unable to provide complete information for any of the years without incurring disproportionate costs.

Trust Ports: Privatisation

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on *(a)* the proposed sale of the Dover Harbour Board and *(b)* the sale of other Trust Ports. [15535]

Mike Penning: On 21 July, I announced an additional period for representations to be made on the transfer scheme submitted in January by Dover Harbour Board, which would allow the Board to sell the port of Dover. This period ended on 27 August. In reaching a decision on the proposals by the Dover Harbour Board all the relevant representations will be taken into account.

No other trust port has brought forward plans for a voluntary privatisation. The Department for Transport earlier this year received analyses from each of the other major trust ports in England and Wales, following their boards' reviews of corporate structure, and will now monitor their implementation plans to enhance efficiency and obtain value from their assets.

Tyres

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to introduce a legal maximum age limit for tyres used on public roads. [14904]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has no such plans.

TREASURY

Annuities

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the compulsory purchase of annuities by pension-holders at the age of 75; and if he will make a statement. [14917]

Danny Alexander: The Government committed in the June 2010 Budget to remove the effective requirement to purchase an annuity by age 75 from April 2010. A consultation on the details of the change was launched on 15 July and closed on 10 September. A summary of responses and draft legislation, containing full details of the final policy, will be published in the autumn.

Banks: Loans

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of levels of bank lending to small and medium-sized enterprises. [15748]

Mr Hoban: The Bank of England publish data on lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on their website, at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/monetary/trendsinlending.htm

The August 2010 edition of the Bank of England's Trends in Lending publication reported that the year-on-year growth rate of lending to SMEs has been negative since October 2009.

The Government recognise that access to finance is essential if businesses are to invest, grow and make their important contribution to supporting the economic recovery. The Government have recently published a Green Paper on business finance to help inform and take forward their agenda on credit and other sources of finance for businesses.

The Green Paper—Financing a Private Sector Recovery—is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

Bus Services: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect on *(a)* levels of employment, *(b)* bus services and *(c)* the economy of ceasing the bus service operators grant; and if he will make a statement. [13412]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply.

An impact assessment was published in March 2008 alongside a consultation document on options for bus subsidy reform. A subsequent impact assessment was published in December 2009. Decisions on the future levels of bus service operators grant will be taken as part of the spending review.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff his Department employs to consider *(a)* departmental and *(b)* national strategy; what output such staff are required to produce; and if he will make a statement. [15599]

Justine Greening: The Treasury has a central role in the development and implementation of strategy on a national scale, on both the economy and the public finances. The Treasury's departmental strategy is designed to support the Department in discharging this responsibility effectively. As this is the Treasury's central responsibility, the majority of the Department are involved in this endeavour.

All Departments are currently producing business plans which outline forward strategy and structural reforms. These plans will be published following the conclusion of the spending review.

Endowment Mortgages

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received recent representations from people who experienced a financial shortfall as a result of the operation of the systems of regulation of endowment policies prior to the implementation of the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. [14897]

Mr Hoban: According to our records, the Chancellor has not received representations.

Government Departments: Audit

Karen Lumley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to widen the tender of the Government audit process; and if he will make a statement. [3071]

Danny Alexander: A number of central Government bodies have outsourced some or all of their internal audit services. The Treasury is currently conducting a review of internal audit services across central Government and tendering and contracting is part of that review.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Green Investment Bank to begin operations; and if he will bring forward proposals to make that bank subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [14448]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is in discussion with colleagues from other Government Departments about implementing the coalition commitment to create a Green Investment Bank (GIB). The Government will be putting forward detailed proposals after the spending review. The proposals will be evaluated for effectiveness, fiscal affordability and transparency.

The Government remain committed to the Freedom of Information Act. Until decisions have been taken on the GIB'S form, it is not possible to say whether or not the Act will apply to the GIB.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Expenditure

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revisions he made in the June 2010 Budget in respect of expected expenditure on jobseeker's allowance in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12. [14899]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility. The Budget Responsibility Committee has been asked to reply.

Letter from Geoffrey Dicks, dated 16 September 2010:

As a Member of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), I have been asked to reply to your recent question:

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what revisions he made in the June 2010 Budget in respect of expected expenditure on jobseekers' allowance in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12. (14899)

The OBR's June 2010 Budget forecast for total Social Security spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) was published in Table C13 of the June Budget document. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has published a breakdown of the DWP benefits subsumed within the June 2010 Budget forecast. This breakdown is available on the DWP website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables_budget2010.xls

The published breakdown includes the final June 2010 Budget forecast for jobseekers' allowance.

DWP provided the OBR with a similar breakdown of the DWP benefits subsumed within the OBR's forecast for total Social Security that was published in Table 4.8 of the Pre-Budget forecast on 14 June 2010. This breakdown has not been published.

Following your request for supplementary information on its forecasts, the Office for Budget Responsibility will release the information concerning the jobseekers' allowance forecast contained within the pre-Budget forecast, and the revisions to the jobseekers' allowance forecast in the June Budget. This information will be released on the OBR website:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

on 21 September 2010. This is consistent with the interim OBR's release policy, which is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/interim_release_process.pdf

Copies of the published material will also be made available in the vote office and printed paper office.

Northern Rock plc

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had recent discussions with the Independent Valuer of Northern Rock on its remit. [14898]

Mr Hoban: The remit of the Northern Rock independent valuer was established in the Northern Rock Compensation Scheme Order 2008. The Chancellor and the independent valuer of Northern Rock have not met to discuss this matter.

Public Expenditure

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of each project subject to the review of Government-funded projects reported on 17 June 2010, for what reason each project was *(a)* approved or *(b)* cancelled; what criteria were used to reach a decision on each project; what evaluation process was followed; and which (i) Government Departments and (ii) external organisations were consulted in each case. [12777]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 6 September 2010]*: 217 projects were considered as part of the coalition Government's review of the spending commitments made by the previous Government between 1 January 2010 and the election. Projects were assessed on the grounds of affordability, value for money and whether they fitted with the priorities of the coalition Government.

12 projects were deemed not to meet the criteria and were, as a result, cancelled. A further 12 were suspended so that they could be considered in more detail over the course of the spending review.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury consulted with the relevant Secretaries of State on specific projects before any decisions were taken.

Public Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure reduction suggestions by members of the public have been considered as part of the Government's Spending Review. [14127]

Danny Alexander: The Government received over 45,000 suggestions from members of the public through the Spending Challenge website. Members of the public were invited to review and rate the ideas received in order to help identify the most promising ones.

The Government have committed to reviewing the ideas with the most potential and, on Friday 10 September, announced that three ideas submitted to the Spending Challenge by members of the public and public sector workers will be implemented as policy by the Government.

These ideas are (a) to reduce the number of Criminal Records Bureau checks for junior doctors, by taking a more common-sense approach across the NHS, so that junior doctors are not checked repeatedly over a short space of time; (b) to distribute national insurance numbers to people with a letter rather than a plastic card; and (c) to increase the selling of surplus and second hand Government equipment by expanding the use of the Ministry of Defence's eDisposals service for use across all Government Departments.

The Government will continue to highlight where ideas submitted by the public have been taken into account when the results of the spending review are announced on 20 October.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of the telephone inquiry service provided by the child tax credit unit of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [14429]

Mr Gauke: The performance and efficiency of HMRC contact centres (which include the tax credit helpline) was recently assessed by the National Audit Office. The National Audit Office findings "Handling Telephone Enquiries" was published on 15 January 2010 with the subsequent Committee of Public Accounts report published on 25 March 2010.

Taxation: Banks

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual net revenue to accrue from the introduction of a transaction tax on the banking industry. [15220]

Mr Hoban: There are many issues that need to be further explored around whether the financial transaction tax model offers a stable and efficient mechanism to raise revenue. These issues need to be resolved before the potential revenue could be forecast. The bank levy, announced in the June 2010 Budget, offers an effective way forward and ensures that banks make a contribution in respect of the risks they pose to the UK financial system and wider economy.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many personal bankruptcies there were in Carlisle constituency in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [15586]

Mr Davey: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcy orders registered in the Carlisle constituency for the three most recent years available. Regional insolvency figures are compiled annually, therefore data for 2010 will not be available until summer 2011. The two other individual insolvency procedures—Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) and Debt Relief Orders (DROs)—are also included.

Table 1: Individual insolvencies in the Carlisle constituency

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Bankruptcy orders	75	78	84
Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs)	52	54	80
Debt Relief Orders (DROs)[1]	—	—	22
Total individual insolvencies	127	132	186

[1] DROs were introduced in April 2009. The data shown here are for April to December 2009.

Banks: Loans

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of availability of credit finance to small and medium sized enterprises. [15750]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Streatham (Mr Umunna) on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 973W.

Construction: Industry

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many organisations registered with his Department and its non-departmental public bodies provide membership to building construction firms on condition that they adhere to a code of practice; and if he will make a statement. [15277]

Mr Davey: There is one organisation that meets this general description: TrustMark, although it is not subject to formal registration with the Department.

TrustMark is an independent company set up with the help of the, then, Department of Trade and Industry in order to help address the issue of cowboy builders. Through the TrustMark Scheme, Trade Associations and equivalent bodies meeting a set of competency and customer care standards are licensed by TrustMark to use the TrustMark brand, as Scheme Operators. They, in turn, are obliged under the licence to ensure that member firms are competent and that their work meets appropriate standards.

Debt Collection: Regulation

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Office of Fair Trading to publish the report of its formal compliance review of debt management guidance. [15589]

Mr Davey: The OFT hopes to publish its findings report from its review of compliance with its Debt Management Guidance (the Guidance) shortly.

Debts: Advisory Services

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on debt, benefits and employment advice in each of the last five years. [15466]

Mr Davey: Over the last five years, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has made the following contributions:

£5 million (£1 million each year) for telephone debt advice via the National Debtline;

£6.8 million for the Face-to-Face Debt Advice project (£2.8 million in 2008-09, £2 million in 2009-10, £1.9 million in 2010-11);

£5 million in 2009-10 to the umbrella bodies for the Citizens Advice Service in England and Wales and in Scotland to increase bureaux opening hours to help meet an increase in the recession-driven demand for advice. Although advice is provided on all manner of issues, at least 50% relates to debt, benefits and employment.

Since 2005, BIS has provided around £128.6 million (£23.8 million in 2005-06, £21.4 million in 2006-07, £21.4 million in 2007-08, £21.4 million in 2008-09, £21.4 million in 2009-10 and £18.9 million in 2010-11) of core grant in aid funding to the umbrella bodies for the Citizens Advice Service in England and Wales and around £18.8 million (£3.2 million in 2005-06, £2.9 million in 2006-07, £3 million in 2007-08, £3.3 million in 2008-09, £3.3 million in 2009-10 and £2.9 million in 2010-11) in Scotland. This funding enables the umbrella bodies to provide business services to their customers—the national networks of Citizens Advice Bureaux—which in turn enable bureaux to provide front-line services to the public. BIS funding also enables both organisations to provide online advice direct to the public through the Adviceguide website. Again, although advice is provided on all manner of issues, at least 50% relates to debt, benefits and employment.

In addition BIS provides funding for the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) which gives advice on employment rights and responsibilities to both employers and employees. This includes its collective conciliation function, as well as individual conciliation, the ACAS Helpline and other training and advice. The allocation for 2010-11 is £49.4 million, and spend so far is £17.5 million. Over the previous four years spend has been:

	£ million
2009-10	54.9
2008-09	51
2007-08	45
2006-07	51.4

BIS also funds the unified Pay and Work Rights line, established in 2009, which provides information and advice about the national and agriculture minimum wage, employment agency regulations, gangmaster licensing and working time. Expenditure on the helpline in 2009-10 was £1.2 million, including set up costs. Prior to 2009-10, advice on these issues was provided by a number of individual helplines run by different agencies across Government as part of their compliance and enforcement work.

In addition, BIS spent minimal staff costs on providing and maintaining information on the businesslink.gov and direct.gov websites.

Departmental Buildings

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building (i) leased and (ii) owned by his Department; on what date each property was opened for occupation by his Department; what the estimated book value is of each such property; and if he will make a statement. [15773]

Mr Davey: The names and addresses for each building that BIS is the main leaseholder (BIS does not own any properties) are as follows, along with dates of original occupation:

1 Victoria street, London SW1H OET: 16 September 1963

10 Victoria street, London SW1H ONN: 1973 (precise date of occupation uncertain)

151 Buckingham Palace road, London SW1W 9SS: 5 November 1993

4 Abbey Orchard street, London SW1P 2HT: 22 December 1999

Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria street, London SW1E 6SW: 1 September 1965

Westfield House, 30 Knaresborough Drive, London SW18 4UT: 24 October 1989

St. Mary's House, 9-11 London road, Sheffield S2 4LA: 13 March 1998

Newtown House, Maid Marion Way, Nottingham, NG1 6GG: 20 July 2005.

The following properties, for which we do not hold information on original occupation dates, were inherited by BIS on 1 April 2010 following the closure of the Learning Skills Council. All properties are currently unoccupied and we are currently seeking new tenants for the space at each location:

Allergate House, Belmont Business Park, Durham DH1 1TW

Progress House, Guard street, Workington CA14 4EW

Unit 7, Pioneer Business Park, Amy Johnson Way, York Y03 8TN

First Floor, Earls Court, Henry Boot Way, Priory Park, Hull HU4 7DY

Royal Pavilion, Summerhouse road, Moulton Park Industrial Estate, Northampton NN3 6BJ

Suite G1, Hollinswood House, Stafford Court, Telford TF2 3DD

Units 6 & 7 Castle Court, 2 Castlegate Business Park, Dudley DY1 4TA

5 Brook Court, Whittington Hall, Whittington road, Worcester WR5 2RX

Stuart House, St Johns street, Peterborough PE1 1SA

Redwing House, Hedgerows Business Park, Colchester road, Chelmsford CM2 5PB

45 Grosvenor road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3AW

Lakeside 500, Old Chapel Way, Broadland Business Park, Norwich NR7 OWG

Ground/1st Floor, Dumayne House, 1 Fox Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 4AB

Canius House, 1 Scarbrook road, Croydon CRO 1SQ

Central House, Lampton road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1HY

Boardman House, 64 Broadway, Stratford E15 1NT

Latimer House, Langford Business Park, Kidlington, Oxford 0X5 1GG

Technology House, 48-54 Goldsworth road, Woking GU21 6LE.

Provincial House, 25 Oxford road, Bournemouth BH8 8EY

Ground Floor, Richmond Court, Emperor Way, Exeter Business Park, Exeter EX1 3QS

First Floor, Kingston House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton TA1 2PX

Conway House, 33-35 Worcester street, Gloucester GL1 3AJ

The Bora Building, 1st Floor, Westlea Campus, Westlea Down, Swindon SN5 7E2.

None of the above properties have a monetary value to the Department as they are all leasehold and, if vacated, an onerous lease provision needs to be made.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff his Department employs to consider *(a)* departmental and *(b)* national strategy; what output such staff are required to produce; and if he will make a statement. [15600]

Mr Davey: The Prime Minister wrote to Cabinet colleagues on 29 May 2010 setting out that organograms for central Government Departments and agencies that include all staff positions would be published in a common format from October 2010.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will therefore shortly be publishing an organogram that includes role descriptions and numbers of staff as at 30 June 2010.

It is difficult to state what constitutes "departmental" and "national" strategy, as most staff will work on formulating or co-ordinating departmental or national policies or sometimes a combination of both.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14926]

Mr Davey: I refer to the response given to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 55W, which listed the total severance payments made to Ministers from each Department who left office following the last general election.

The Government publish annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Higher Education Act 2004

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process his Department follows to assess whether higher education institutions should be re-awarded degree-awarding powers under the provisions of the Higher Education Act 2004. [15358]

Mr Willetts: There are no provisions about degree awarding powers in the Higher Education Act 2004. However, since September 2004, private higher education institutions have been granted taught degree-awarding powers on a time limited basis.

At the end of each period of six years, the Department will seek advice from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) or other external quality assurance agency as appropriate, on whether the institution meets the criteria for the renewal of degree-awarding powers.

The criteria are that an organisation has:

(i) subscribed for the duration of those six years to the QAA (or such other external quality assurance organisation as may be specified);

(ii) been subject to an external audit by the QAA; and

(iii) received a judgement of confidence in the organisation made by the QAA at the time of the audit.

Higher Education: Admissions

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from England began attending universities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in each of the last five years. [15335]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of English-domiciled postgraduate and undergraduate entrants to higher education institutions in England, Scotland and Wales are shown in the tables. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and are provided for the academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09. Information for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from HESA in January 2011.

English-domiciled postgraduate entrants[1] to higher education institutions in England[2], Scotland and Wales, academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

	Country of institution		
Academic year	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
2004/05	137,790	1,740	2,480
2005/06	141,105	2,060	2,660
2006/07	138,130	2,610	2,925
2007/08	135,965	2,695	2,610
2008/09	151,690	2,550	2,825

[1] Covers all-aged postgraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on an HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five:

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

English-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] to higher education institutions in England[2], Scotland and Wales, academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

	Country of institution		
Academic year	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
2004/05	482,950	4,305	11,705
2005/06	498,090	4,745	12,445
2006/07	473,755	4,065	11,335
2007/08	488,065	4,325	10,810
2008/09	516,865	4,910	10,710

[1] Covers all-aged undergraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on an HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five:

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his estimate is of the savings to the Exchequer arising from a reduction in the number of university places by 10,000 in 2010. [15354]

Mr Willetts: This Government have increased, not reduced, the number of university places available this year by 10,000 compared to the position set out in the December 2009 HEFCE Grant Letter. Because of the need for deficit reduction, we have also made a saving of £200 million in HE budgets. We have refocused the University Modernisation Fund, announced by the previous Government, because insufficient quality bids were received to fill the 20,000 places initially offered. We are also making efficiencies at university level. But the total funding we are making available to HEFCE for this year is still higher than that announced in the Council's Grant Letter of December 2009.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students at each private higher education institution are eligible for student support. [15356]

Mr Willetts: For the purpose of student support, a private higher education institution is any provider of higher education which is not publicly funded. Higher education courses provided by private institutions in the UK may be specifically designated to attract student support on an individual basis. They must all be accredited by a recognised UK awarding body such as a university, with the exception of the University of Buckingham which has its own degree-awarding powers. English-domiciled students attending these courses can apply for student support. The table which shows the number of approved student finance applications by English-domiciled applicants planning to study at private higher education institutions in academic year 2009/10 will be placed in the Library of the House. The figures include applications for all types of full and part time undergraduate student support and postgraduate disabled student allowance.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which private higher education institutions are awaiting the renewal of their degree-awarding powers under the provisions of the Higher Education Act 2004. [15357]

Mr Willetts: There are no provisions regarding degree-awarding powers in the Higher Education Act 2004. However, since September 2004, when the criteria for degree-awarding powers and university title were changed, private higher education institutions have only been granted taught degree-awarding powers on a time-limited basis. No private higher education institutions are awaiting renewal of their powers at present; the dates of expiry are given as follows:

	Dates
College of Law	18 July 2012
BPP University College of Professional Studies	31 August 2013
Ashridge (Bonar Law Memorial) Trust	31 August 2014
ifs School of Finance	1 January 2016

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications his Department and its predecessors received from BPP to use the title BPP University College. [15411]

Mr Willetts: The support of a Department or body specified in regulations is required before my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will consider whether to approve the use of the word "university" in the registered name of a company. Since 1 October 2009, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills is the specified Department if the company's registered office is in England and Wales; previously it was the Privy Council in all cases.

The Privy Council received an application from BPP College of Professional Studies Ltd. in 2007 to use the term 'university college'. No further applications were received until May 2010 when the principal of the college wrote to the Department seeking support for the BPP College of Professional Studies Ltd. to change its name to BPP University College of Professional Studies Ltd.

Higher Education: Standards

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what requirements higher education institutions have to meet to have the word university in their title. [15272]

Mr Willetts: Higher education institutions can apply to use the word 'university' in their title if they:

(i) have been granted powers to award taught degrees;

(ii) normally have at least 4,000 full time equivalent higher education students, of whom at least 3,000 are registered on degree level courses (including Foundation Degree programmes); and

(iii) are able to demonstrate that they have regard to the principles of good governance relevant to the sector.

Higher education institutions are able to use the term 'university college' in their title if they have been granted taught degree-awarding powers, whether on a time-limited basis or indefinitely.

In accordance with these conditions, on 15 July 2010 BPP College of Professional Studies Limited became the first non-publicly funded higher education institution with its own degree-awarding powers to be given approval to use 'university college' in a change of company name to BPP University College of Professional Studies Limited.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what requirement there is for the Privy Council to authorise the use of the title of university by a higher education institution. [15408]

Mr Willetts: The Privy Council has a duty to authorise the use of the word 'university' in publicly funded higher education institutions under section 77 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and Section 39 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998. The Privy Council no longer has any involvement in the approval of the word 'university' for private higher education institutions applying to use university titles under business and company names legislation. That duty passed to this Department on 1 October 2009.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process his Department followed in authorising the use by BPP of the title University College; and which Minister in his Department authorised the recommendation of this award. [15409]

Mr Willetts: Any applicant for the approval of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for a company to adopt a registered name that includes the word 'university' must first request the specified Department to indicate whether (and if so why) it has any objections to the proposed name. If the company's registered office is in England and Wales, the specified Department is the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The application for approval must include a statement that the request has been made and be accompanied by a copy of any response received.

In the case of the change of name of BPP College of Professional Studies Ltd. to BPP University College of Professional Studies Ltd., the chief executive of the College wrote to me on 24 May 2010 seeking my support for the word 'university' in the proposed company name. An official responded on 6 July 2010 confirming that the Department had no objection to the use of the word 'university' in the proposed new company name.

The college subsequently sought the approval of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the change of name. This was granted and a revised certificate of incorporation issued on 15 July 2010.

Higher Education: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Wales began attending universities in England in each of the last five years. [15368]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

Welsh domiciled entrants[1], English higher education institutions[2], academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Number*
2004/05	9,805
2005/06	10,390

Welsh domiciled entrants[1], English higher education institutions[2], academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Number*
2006/07	9,620
2007/08	9,475
2008/09	9,630

[1] Covers all-aged postgraduate and undergraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Industrial Development Boards

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the future structure, functions and role of industrial development boards in England; and if he will make a statement. [15689]

Mr Prisk: The role of industrial development boards is to give independent expert advice on the provision of public financial support to business and help ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

The landscape for the provision of assistance to business is changing. The seven industrial development boards supporting regional development agencies (RDAs), which were non-departmental public bodies appointed by Ministers, were replaced by advisory panels, providing the same functions, appointed and supported entirely by the RDAs during 2009/10. The abolition of the RDAs was announced in the June Budget. The advisory panels will thus close as their relevant RDA closes.

The Government's approach to supporting economic development below the national level will be set out in the forthcoming Sub-National Growth White Paper.

At the national level, the Government envisage a continuing need for expert advice on large business investment decisions.

Job Creation and Vocational Training: Cumbria

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse his Department and its predecessors have allocated to each administering organisation for the purpose of *(a)* job creation and *(b)* employment training in (i) Copeland constituency and (ii) Cumbria in each year since 1997. [15593]

Mr Prisk: The Department provides funding to the Northwest regional development agency (NWDA) for economic development. The funds are pooled into a single pot along with those from other contributing Government Departments.

Expenditure cannot be attributed specifically to job creation and/or employment training. The following table shows NWDA's annual programme expenditure for Cumbria and Copeland where elements of the projects/programmes supported included job creation and/or employment training.

£000

	Cumbria sub-region	*Copeland constituency*
1999/2000	3,256	79
2000/01	4,083	410
2001/02	10,436	3,492
2002/03	15,368	1,506
2003/04	27,287	4,475
2004/05	40,861	6,637
2005/06	50,778	9,602
2006/07	48,128	8,993
2007/08	58,366	10,488
2008/09	39,794	9,043
2009/10	38,742	6,625
Total	337,099	61,350

Note:

The first four years record expenditure on projects which were still live in 2003 when NWDA's new Programme Management System came online. Expenditure on projects which were completed prior to 2003, and captured on earlier and now redundant IT systems, is excluded.

Postcodes: Databases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Royal Mail on the deletion of county names from the Postcode Address File. [15755]

Mr Davey: None. Operational matters are the direct responsibility of Royal Mail's management.

Postcomm, the postal services regulator, carried out a public consultation in 2009 which called for views on the perceived importance and use of county information in postal addresses. The findings of the consultation can be found on the regulator's website:

www.psc.gov.uk

Property Development: Utilities

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that privately-owned utility companies provide timely service connections to new construction projects. [14840]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Water Industry Act 1991 specifies, subject to certain exceptions and conditions, the time allowed for water companies to install infrastructure, including connections to the public water supply. Timescales are as follows:

(a) water mains within three months;

(b) sewers within six months;

(c) water supply connections within 21 days and subject to the proposed connection being compliant with the water fittings regulations.

If there is a complaint from a developer against a water company, Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales, can take it up with the relevant company. If deadlines are not met, developers are able to pursue any losses through the courts.

Ofwat is considering setting up a developers/development forum to share information and help address areas of contention.

Water companies currently monitor levels of service on an informal basis. Ofwat will consider if the current informal mechanism is appropriate and robust.

Public Sector: North East

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the economic effects of public sector contracts in the North East; and what the monetary value of public sector contracts awarded in the North East was in 2009-10. [14249]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* An assessment on the economic effects of public service contracts in the North East has not been made as the information and its monetary value are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HM Treasury publish data on identifiable expenditure by country and region in chapter 9 of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_2010_chapter9.pdf

Small Businesses: Rural Areas

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to increase the level of access to credit for small businesses in rural areas. [15320]

Mr Davey: Ensuring the flow of credit to SMEs, including those in rural areas, is a core priority for the Government.

As well as continuing to push banks to lend to viable businesses, the Government have extended the Enterprise Finance Guarantee by £200 million to £700 million, as well as operating Enterprise Capital Funds providing equity, and taking forward the Growth Capital Fund. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs oversees the delivery of the Rural Development Programme for England which aims to foster competitive and sustainable rural businesses.

Further to this, the Government recently published the Green Paper 'Financing a private sector recovery', requesting views from individuals, businesses and financial institutions on what they regard as the key challenges in facilitating business access to finance and the approaches that would best address these. The Government will respond to the views submitted.

Space Technology

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what UK space projects his Department is *(a)* fully and *(b)* partially funding; what plans he has to fund such projects in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [15774]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills currently contributes towards a number of UK space projects through support to industry and the research community. At this time, the plan is to continue funding each project to completion.

The UK space projects that are fully funded are:

UK payloads for the ESA Exo-Mars mission; UK payloads for the ESA Cosmic Vision programme; the Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation (CEOI); and the UK Disaster Management Constellation operations.

UK projects which are partially funded include:

Government Information from the Space Sector (GIFTSS); underpinning GEO Action Support; CubeSat; TechDemoSat; and educational support for the school curriculum. The Department is also making a significant contribution to the costs of setting up the International Science and Innovation Centre (ISIC) and for exploitation grants in the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB).

Students: Accommodation

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment officials in his Department have made of the quality of student accommodation in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England and Wales; [15316]

(2) what meetings he has had with the National Union of Students to discuss the quality of student accommodation since his appointment. [15317]

Mr Willetts: I have made no assessment of the quality of student accommodation in either *(a)* Hertfordshire or *(b)* England and Wales, nor have I had discussions with the NUS on this matter.

Universities are responsible for the quality of their student accommodation and have to abide by the health and safety standards in the Housing Act 2004 and are also required to sign up to one of the three codes of practice, developed by Universities UK or the Accreditation Network UK (ANUK)/Unipol, relating to the management standards of providing student accommodation.

The 2004 Housing Act has also been instrumental in raising the management standards and physical conditions of some private rented accommodation that pose the greatest risk to the health, safety and welfare of their occupants, namely houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). Many university accommodation services provide students with lists of accredited private accommodation providers who have met an agreed set of quality standards. Students can also access lists of accredited private landlords from local councils or other organisations, such as ANUK/Unipol.

Union Modernisation Fund

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Union Modernisation Fund. [14968]

Mr Davey: I confirm that we have no plans for a further round of the Union Modernisation Fund.

Valuation Office Agency: Databases

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* name, *(b)* address and *(c)* size is of each (i) used and (ii) vacant space for each entry on the e-PIMS property database in April 2010. [15055]

Mr Davey: The information, recorded on the e-PIMS database as at 26 March 2010, will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Wind Power

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the offshore wind industry of the abolition of regional development agencies. [13974]

Mr Davey: Our proposals are for restructuring the delivery landscape for economic development. Replacing the regional development agencies (RDAs) with local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) will ensure that these partnerships better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas that they serve. Reorganising the delivery of economic development will ensure a focused targeted delivery of policy in areas where it can have the most benefit, allowing those locations which stand to benefit most from offshore wind to focus their attention on supporting the industry.

We are currently considering proposals for LEPs, which were submitted in early September. In the meantime, we are working closely with the RDA network during the transition to minimise the impact on priority programmes including those supporting the offshore wind industry. Growing the offshore wind industry remains a priority for this Government and we will act to ensure that both inward investment and domestic firms wishing to move into this area continue to be supported.

Yorkshire Forward

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in Yorkshire received funding from Yorkshire Forward between 1997 and 2010. [12688]

Mr Davey: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine how to spend their budgets, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of how many companies receive RDA funding.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Friday 17 September and Monday 4 October 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Chalk Streams

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to protect chalk streams in (a) Winchester and (b) England. [15784]

Richard Benyon: Chalk streams are designated priority habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP). The River Itchen that flows through Winchester is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and as a Special Area of Conservation. These designations require the Environment Agency to review all of the rivers permits.

The UKBAP has set out three priorities for chalk streams:

maintain the characteristic plants and animals of chalk rivers, including their winterbourne (headwater) stretches;

restore water quality, flows and habitat diversity;

identify cost-effective means of restoring damaged river reaches.

To deliver these actions there are already five key programmes:

the water companies all have National Environment Programmes to improve discharges from sewage treatment works;

measures to address diffuse pollution;

the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme;

projects to restore river habitat; and

works to control the spread on non-native species.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work her Department is undertaking in pursuit of reform of the common agricultural policy. [15888]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers and officials are working, as a matter of priority, with the European Commission, European Parliament, member states and domestic stakeholders to press for an ambitious reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) that delivers good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment. DEFRA Ministers continue to discuss reform of the CAP with EU counterparts at the Agriculture Council and the Informal Agriculture Council. EU discussions about the CAP post-2013 are only just beginning and we expect the Commission to publish a Communication by the end of 2010.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12720]

Richard Benyon: Since the coalition Government was formed on 11 May, DEFRA Network has terminated one contract as a result of the ICT Moratorium. This is Kew Gardens, a DEFRA non-departmental public body, which has cancelled its back office project in preference for a shared solution with other Government bodies. The monetary value of the cancelled work not carried out is £140,000.

In the previous five years, only one further IT contract has been terminated—by the Rural Payments Agency in October 2007. Termination was due to "material default" which was "incapable of remedy". The contract was for the provision of Broadband and associated services. The monetary value of the contract was linked to the number of users and estimated at £870,000.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Department who left office after the last general election. [15406]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 16 September 2010]*: Details of severance payments given to Ministers was provided to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

Two special advisers also received a standard severance payment in line with their employment contracts. Full details of severance payments made to special advisers will be published by written ministerial statement from the Prime Minister in due course.

Food: Labelling

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to make information on the quantity of each ingredient listed on food labels more accurate; and if she will make a statement. [15641]

Mr Paice: There are no plans to change the requirements on the labelling of ingredient quantities. There are already requirements in place through provisions on quantitative ingredients declarations (QUID). These rules require information to be provided on the amount of key ingredients highlighted on the label.

The law on food labelling is harmonised at EU level and the scope for individual member states to introduce national rules in this area is rather restricted. Any change to the requirements would require agreement with all EU member states, which would need to be supported by clear consumer evidence to ensure new measures are balanced and proportionate.

Marine Stewardship Council

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has had recent discussions with the Marine Stewardship Council on reform of its fishery certification programme and eco-label scheme. [15546]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not met with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) recently to discuss reform of its fishery certification programme and eco-label scheme. Officials meet with MSC representatives routinely as one of many partners aiming to achieve sustainable fisheries, in recognition of the fact that third-party certification programmes, such as the MSC scheme, have a role to play in supporting efforts by governments to improve the management of our fisheries.

In recent years, staff from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), an executive agency of DEFRA, have provided advice to the MSC on technical matters about the certification of specific fisheries and have participated in stakeholder workshops to address the quality and consistency of the MSC's certification process. However, the MSC is an independent non-profit making organisation and, while DEFRA and CEFAS officials will provide appropriate policy and technical support as requested, management of their scheme is ultimately a matter for the MSC.

Water: Meters

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on the effects on people in different *(a)* income and *(b)* demographic groups of compulsory water metering. [15612]

Richard Benyon: Ministers and officials regularly discuss issues such as water affordability and compulsory metering with interested parties in the water sector, including Ofwat, the Environment Agency, the Consumer Council for Water and water companies.

Anna Walker's independent review of charging for household water and sewerage services also assessed metering and affordability. Her final report is available on DEFRA's website.

DEFRA will consult on key issues in the Walker review later this year, ahead of publishing a Water White Paper early next summer.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has offered any guidance to local authorities considering the introduction of a minimum price per unit of alcohol. [14147]

Mrs May: I have been asked to reply.

We are currently examining the proposal to prohibit the sale of alcohol below cost price, and a range of options is under consideration. The alcohol consultation "Re-balancing the Licensing Act" closed on 8 September. We will now make a full assessment of the administrative requirements of the proposal and its impacts on local authorities and businesses.

The Home Office has not offered guidance to any local authorities concerning the introduction of a minimum unit price. We are currently undertaking a review of alcohol taxation and pricing, the outcome of which will help to set the Government's agenda, on which measures will be taken forward in relation to alcohol pricing.

Councillors: Codes of Practice

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bedford (Richard Fuller) of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 213W, on the Standards Board for England, if he will consider the merits of introducing a power for electors to recall a local councillor. [15545]

Robert Neill: We are developing the provisions of the legislation to abolish the Standards Board regime and devolve greater powers to councils, including considering with local government and other partners what powers might best ensure that the highest standards of conduct continue throughout local government. Our reforms will include introducing criminal sanctions against corruption.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's chief scientific officer since 6 May 2010. [15433]

Robert Neill: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has met the Department's chief scientific officer once. No other Ministers in this Department have met the chief scientific officer. The chief scientific officer advises the Department, leading the science and engineering profession within the Department and ensuring that science and engineering evidence is commissioned and used effectively in policy development and delivery across the Department.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on newspapers for Ministers and special advisers in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [15043]

Robert Neill: For information on the cost of newspapers and periodicals for ministerial offices in 2008-09, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 702-04W. The total cost of newspapers and periodicals for ministerial offices in 2009-10 was £24,608.43. These costs were in addition to two media monitoring contracts with Durrants and Precise. The new Government consider this expenditure wasteful, and as outlined in my Department's press release of 11 September, we have consolidated seven sets of papers and periodicals for Ministers and special advisers down to one set.

Fire Services

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will halt the introduction of regional fire control centres and retain existing centres; and if he will make a statement. [14434]

Robert Neill: FiReControl, as with all Government projects, is being reviewed to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. We are not going to provide additional public funding to bail out this contract.

The Government are becoming increasingly concerned at the inability of EADS to deliver on its contractual obligations to sufficient quality and time—and we have made this clear to it in no uncertain terms. Products delivered from EADS have consistently been late and of poor quality. Two recent examples are the data toolkit used by Fire and Rescue Services for recording resources and station end equipment in local fire stations. The toolkit cannot capture all the data needed to accurately and reliably route the nearest and most appropriate fire appliance to an incident. The station end equipment—which controls the alerters, doors, bells, etc, in fire stations—failed safety checks at the last minute.

We are looking carefully at the contract and need to decide soon whether EADS can deliver to time, to cost and to quality in accordance with its contractual obligations. The Government are committed to ensuring value-for-money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Fires: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the fire service of hoax telephone calls in *(a)* Gateshead, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [15788]

Robert Neill: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Construction

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Eltham (Clive Efford) of 27 May 2010, *Official Report*, column 290, what the evidential basis was for his statement on the number of houses *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* a registered social landlord can construct for a given amount of money. [15715]

Grant Shapps: So long as council housing is in the public sector it will usually be more cost-effective for central Government to fund new social housing supply through the housing association sector.

Housing associations are independent private bodies and can lever in private finance to help fund development reducing the overall cost to the tax payer. This means that Government can assist more households for any given level of public investment.

Local Government: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he plans to include proposals for direct elections in the proposal for a Greater Manchester Combined Authority; [15541]

(2) what plans he has for the future of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority scheme. [15542]

Robert Neill: We are working closely with Manchester and other areas with a view to giving them the freedom and flexibility they need to deliver on their own economic ambitions. Greater Manchester has recently submitted its proposal for a local enterprise partnership, which we are giving careful thought to. We are considering its proposal for a combined authority alongside these wider discussions.

The legislation on combined authorities, as set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, includes no provision for direct elections.

Ordnance Survey: Public Relations

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 5 August 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract and project brief for the work carried out for Ordnance Survey by Mandate Public Affairs; and how much was spent on the contract. [15026]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: Mandate Communications were contracted by Ordnance Survey to provide consultancy and advice on Corporate Communications and Public Affairs.

For the financial year 2009-10 the value of the contract was £35,757. Notice on this contract was served in May 2010.

A copy of the contract, with commercially confidential information redacted, and which includes the Project Brief at Appendix 1, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Rights of Way

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect of new arrangements for access to Ordnance Survey mapping information on the number of right of way claims made by members of the public. [15793]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA has not made any assessment of the new arrangements for access to Ordnance Survey mapping information regarding potential effects on the number of right of way claims. Nor has DEFRA received any representations from user organisations on any potential impact.

EDUCATION

Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have (i) expressed interest in and (ii) applied for academy status; [10250]

(2) which schools have applied for academy status. [10251]

Mr Gibb: On 26 May 2010, the Secretary of State invited schools to register their interest in becoming an academy. As of the 27 August 2010, 898 primary and nursery schools and 979 secondary schools had registered an interest. As of 31 August 2010, 170 schools have applied for academy status. A list of the schools that have applied has been published on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

Academies: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to make a decision on whether to proceed with the allocation of £26 million of funding to build a new academy school in Consett, North West Durham. [11778]

Mr Gibb: The Government announced on 6 August that the capital allocation for this academy will be announced after the comprehensive spending review.

Academies: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in Gateshead local authority area have expressed an interest in becoming academy schools. [13437]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received two expressions of interest in converting to academy status from schools in Gateshead local authority. These were from Cardinal Hume Catholic School and St Thomas More Catholic School.

Academies: Hartlepool

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in the area of Hartlepool borough council have applied for academy status. [5412]

Mr Gibb: As of 10 September, one school (Dyke House Sports and Technology College) in the area of Hartlepool borough council has applied for academy status. The list of schools which have applied is published on:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

It will be updated on a regular basis.

Academies: Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an assessment of the merits of requiring academies to cap the pay of *(a)* the principal and *(b)* other members of staff at the salary level of the Prime Minister. [12044]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 September 2010]:* Academies are free to set their own staff pay and conditions and invest their allocated budget in pupils' education as they see fit. Academies value this freedom and we intend to retain it. However, academies receive broadly the same funding as maintained schools, so they will clearly have to set staff pay in the light of significantly tighter public finances over coming years.

Academies: Redundancy

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether arrangements for any redundancies of staff at new academy schools will be covered by a redundancy modification order. [9077]

Mr Gibb: The Department meets a proportion of the Academy Trust's costs arising from the inclusion of Academies in the Schedules to the Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government) (Modification) Order 1999.

Academies are included in the Redundancy Payments Modification Order and so service in local authority schools and Academies counts as continuous for the purposes of determining entitlement to statutory redundancy pay.

Academies: Salisbury

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in Salisbury constituency expressed interest in adopting academy status. [6419]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* As of 10 September 2010, four schools in Salisbury have expressed an interest in converting to academy status. Two lists of schools which have registered an interest in becoming an academy, one containing those schools rated outstanding and the second other schools, have been published at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

These lists will be updated on a regular basis.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he intends to issue advice to local authorities who may face litigation from contractors as a result of the ending of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [8101]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 July 2010]:* It is for local authorities to manage their own contractual obligations and to obtain any legal advice they need. The Secretary of State has no plans to issue departmental advice to them on the conduct of their relationship with contractors.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will undertake a public consultation before making a decision on Building Schools for the Future funding for projects at sample schools. [11577]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* The review of sample schools is complete and on 6 August, the Secretary of State announced the go-ahead for all sample schools in England. A detailed list can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/press-notices-new/bsf-sample-schools

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) on what date he informed Gateshead metropolitan borough council of the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme planned for the west of the borough.; [12167]

(2) who in Gateshead metropolitan borough council he informed of the cancellation of the planned Building Schools for the Future programme for the west of the borough; [12168]

(3) if he will discuss with Gateshead metropolitan borough council alternatives for the cancelled Building Schools for the Future programme planned for the borough. [12170]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State wrote to Mr Roger Kelly, the chief executive of Gateshead metropolitan borough council, on 5 July. In his letter he set out the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme and the future of capital spending in schools more broadly.

The chief executive of Partnerships for Schools also wrote to the Director of Children's Services of Gateshead metropolitan borough council on 14 July to confirm the position for Gateshead's Building Schools for the Future programme.

The team conducting the capital review announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July has invited evidence from those with an interest in capital investment in schools. Contributions are welcome from all local authorities and the call for evidence is open until 17 September.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received from *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* individuals on the future of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [12520]

Mr Gibb: Since making his announcement on 5 July 2010 which gave details of a review of all areas of DFE capital spending the Secretary of State has received several hundred items of correspondence on this subject.

Representations have been made by several local authorities including Bolton, Coventry, Derby, Ealing, Kent, Liverpool, Luton, Norfolk and Portsmouth.

Correspondence has been received from the General Secretary of the NASUWT.

Pupils, head teachers and governors in areas such as Camden, Durham, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire have also made representations to the Department.

The Department is currently working towards responding to all correspondence received dealing with any specific issues raised.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the local authority in Bolton on the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [11868]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with Bolton local authority on the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Children: Autism

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to assist children with autism. [11909]

Sarah Teather: Support for children with special educational needs (SEN), including autism, is a priority for the Government. Provision for children with autism is made by schools and local authorities and we are supporting local services through the Autism Education Trust. The trust works with schools, local authorities, parents and children with autism to enhance services and promote effective practice.

On 6 July, I announced that we will publish a Green Paper in the autumn on a wide range of SEN issues, which builds on the forthcoming Ofsted review of the SEN framework and also on earlier reviews, such as that undertaken by Brian Lamb into parental confidence in the system. Battling the SEN system can be a source of great frustration for parents of children with autism. We want to ensure the process is more accountable, more transparent and more responsive to parental choice. We are keen to consult widely on the Green Paper, and a Call for Views was launched on 10 September.

Children: Databases

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the savings to be accrued in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough as a result of ending the ContactPoint database in each of the next five financial years. [8403]

Tim Loughton: On 22 July I made a written ministerial statement informing Parliament that ContactPoint would be shut down on 6 August. The Department also wrote to local authorities on the same day informing them that grant funding would continue until the end of August to cover the costs of decommissioning ContactPoint.

As from 1 September the Department will save the cost of grant payments to the West Midlands and Dudley borough for the remainder of 2010-11 and in the years thereafter. The response I gave to the hon. Member on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 97W, gives details of these grant payments. The Department does not have details of any further savings that might accrue locally to the West Midlands and Dudley borough as a result of closing ContactPoint.

Closing down ContactPoint is not about saving money, it is about finding the most proportionate and effective way to help frontline practitioners to protect vulnerable children. We have never believed that such a large database, accessible to hundreds of thousands of people, is the most appropriate way to help vulnerable children.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he plans to allocate to the Common Assessment Framework in each of the next three years. [14600]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* Future funding decisions are subject to the results of the Spending Review. The Spending Review settlement will be announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 20 October 2010.

Children: Protection

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what tasks the Government Office Network has undertaken on the safeguarding of children since 2006. [11925]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* In April 2006, Children and Learners Teams were established in Government Offices to provide advice, support and challenge to local areas across all children's services, as well as co-ordinating and managing the Department's other regional activity. At that time, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) was responsible for in-year monitoring of local authority children's social care services as set out in the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2006 ("Working Together"). From 1 April 2007 these monitoring functions also became part of the responsibilities of the Children and Learners Teams based in Government Offices as set out in Local Authority Circular (2007) 25.

"Working Together" was updated in March 2010. It sets out the responsibilities of Government Offices in relation to safeguarding as including:

> "giving support and challenge to LSCBs and to Children's Trust Boards in relation to SCR (Serious Case Review) and CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel) activity and implementation. This includes seeking assurance that LSCB and Children's Trust plans are in place and action is being taken to effectively address recommendations".

Both "Working Together" and the Local Authority Circular (2007) 25 have been placed in the House Libraries.

In practice, Children and Learner Teams have discharged their responsibilities in safeguarding by, for example, working with local areas to understand their specific challenges, advising on programmes of available support and good practice, as well as facilitating local networks. These Teams have also sought assurance that statutory action plans are in place and being implemented to address recommendations identified through inspection reports. Where serious case reviews are concerned, these Teams have been responsible for providing support and challenge such as commenting on the quality of the reviews' analysis and recommendations. These Teams have also used local knowledge to alert the Department so as to influence national policy.

"The Coalition: our programme for government" announced the decision to close the Government Office for London and to review the position of the other eight Government Offices. On 22 July, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining eight Government Offices. A final decision will be made at the end of the Spending Review in the autumn.

Closing the Government Offices network is in line with the Government's policy on removing administrative layers and simplifying accountability across national and local government, and reducing public expenditure. It will also contribute to delivering the Government's commitment to empower local authorities by removing top down monitoring, support and challenge, freeing them up to focus on their own plans for improvement.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance is given to social workers in court proceedings on child protection cases on discussing with the grandparents of the child in question their role in the proceedings. [13651]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* The relevant guidance to social workers is set out in the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 1 Court Orders. This states at paragraph 3.8 that:

> 'In presenting a care plan to the court in any application for a care order, the local authority will be required to demonstrate that it has considered family members and friends as potential carers at each stage in its decision making.'

The authority should therefore have assessed the suitability of any possible arrangements and have considered the most appropriate legal status of such arrangements. The appropriate options and the implications for the potential carer of such options should have been discussed before the care plan is submitted to the court.

Children's Centres

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Sure Start children's centres have opened since 1997. [14069]

Sarah Teather: On 31 July 2010, 3,633 Sure Start Children's Centres were open in England, providing access to services to over 2.9 million children under five and their families.

This figure represents the total stock of children's centres on 31 July 2010, and does not include children's centres that may have opened since 1997 and subsequently merged with other children's centres or closed.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children and their families used Sure Start children's centres in May 2010. [14587]

Sarah Teather: Data for the number of children and their families using Sure Start children's centres are not collected centrally.

Classroom Assistants

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools on best practice in employment of teaching assistants. [12385]

Mr Gibb: Head teachers are responsible for deploying and managing all teaching and support staff of the school and allocating particular duties to them in a manner consistent with their conditions of employment and the needs of the school. The Training and Development Agency for schools has issued a range of guidance to schools on best practice in employing and deploying teaching assistants. This can be found at:

http://www.tda.gov.uk/remodelling.aspx

We are currently reviewing all education policies and we will be setting out our plans for schools in a White Paper in the autumn.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [13277]

Tim Loughton: The proportions of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt by DFE during July and August 2010 are: July - 94.37% and August - 95.04%.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13937]

Tim Loughton: As shown in the following table, the total number of payments made by the Department for Education (DfE) in this financial year within 30 days is 21,804 and represents 98.82% of all payments. Please note that our shared services provider does not monitor payments over 60 and 90 days.

	Number/percentage
Total payments	22,065
Within 30 days	21,804
Percentage	98.82

For non-departmental public bodies, the table shown as follows provides a breakdown of payments made within 30 days and over 30, 60 and 90 days of receipt of invoice.

Please note that the figures for payments over the 60 and 90 thresholds are not available from Becta.

				Number
NDPBs	*Within 30 days of receipt of invoice*	*After 30 days of receipt of invoice*	*After 60 days of receipt of invoice*	*After 90 days of receipt of invoice*
BECTA	7,017	3,514	[1]—	[1]—
CAFCASS	20,302	4,818	1,244	1,542
CWDC	5,426	762	201	135
National College	12,525	731	123	88
OCC	194	77	3	1
PfS	1,018	112	41	26
QCDA	31,453	657	136	80
SFT	1,136	43	7	2
TDA	12,085	768	181	142
YPLA	617	105	54	54

[1] Unavailable.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5921]

Tim Loughton: The civil service like all public authorities is legally obliged to be proactive in promoting equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination for service users and staff in order to comply with the Public Equality Duties (under Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2002; Disability Discrimination Act 2005; and Equality Act 2006).

At the present time 3.6 people are employed by the Department to promote equality and diversity.

The following table details total expenditure for the last three years. However, this work is only a small part of the Department's equality and diversity related activities. Equality and diversity activity is incorporated within all relevant functions of the Department. These activities meet the joint aims of promoting equality and diversity and seeking to eliminate unlawful discrimination. It is not possible to identify a total spend for promotional activity.

		£
	(a) Total costs of promoting E and D[1]	*(b) Staff costs for promoting E and D*
2007-08	552,883	180,883
2008-09	543,107	156,307
2009-10	443,710	147,710

[1] This figure also includes the Department's spend on reasonable adjustments for our disabled members of staff. The yearly spend on reasonable adjustments for the years in question was: 2007-08 £246,000; 2008-09 £237,000; 2009-10 £150,000

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many chairs his Department and its predecessors purchased in each year since 1997; how much was spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12810]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not hold information on the number of chairs purchased by the Department and its predecessors prior to 2007/08. However, information is available on the total amount spent on chairs in the following years:

Purchase of chairs

	£
2007-08	126,261
2008-09	78,286
2009-10	39,297

Information is available on the five most expensive chairs purchased in the last three years. All of the most expensive chairs were purchased as part of reasonable adjustments for staff following workplace assessments, enabling the Department to meet its statutory requirements. The information is as follows:

Purchase of chairs

	£
2007-08	1,291
	1,182
	1,116
	980
	868
2008-09	
	1,048
	1,044
	1,039
	958
	938
2009-10	
	1,414
	1,299
	964
	857
	857

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [10109]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State and Ministers hosted three briefing events in June 2010 to meet with approximately 75 stakeholders from across the education and children's sectors to outline policy priorities and listen to their views. To keep costs to a minimum the events were hosted in the Department. The total cost was £732.25.

There was no departmental expenditure on hospitality for ministerial events during the month of May 2010.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what average hourly rate his Department has paid to each employment agency for agency staff since its inception. [12710]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was established on 12 May 2010 and uses Hay Office Support and Reed Employment agencies through a Buying Solutions framework agreement.

Since its inception, the average hourly rate that the Department has paid to these employment agencies is set out in the following table:

Agency	*Average hourly rate (£)*
Hays Office Support	15.25
Reed Employment	13.70

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 260W, on departmental public expenditure, from which youth budgets the savings will be made. [12302]

Mr Gibb: In a letter to the right hon. Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls) placed in the House Libraries in June 2010, the Secretary of State laid out further details of the £670 million of savings that are the Department's contribution to the £6.2 billion savings package previously announced by the Chancellor and Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

The Department will save £59.9 million across the 14-19 programme budgets. This saving breaks down as follows:

	£ million
Ending Activity Agreement and Entry to Learning pilots now as lessons have been learned	2.7
Savings from unallocated funding previously earmarked for enterprise education	7
14-19 efficiencies and stopping lower priority projects	4.1
Savings from lower than anticipated take up of the Diploma	9
Scaling back support for delivery of Diplomas	13.2
Stop funding the development of the Diploma and related qualifications	9
Reducing centrally provided workforce development activity including ending a number of field forces	14
Ending the role of the 14-19 Regional Advisers from September.	0.9
Total	59.9

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what processes his Department has established for the award of grant agreements; and whether such awards are subject to competitive tendering. [15962]

Tim Loughton: The Department uses a range of processes for administering grants, consistent with HM Treasury guidance. The main types are:

Grant in Aid (sometimes called "through funding"), which is the main method used to support the Department's arm's length bodies

Formula funded grants, such as the Dedicated Schools Grant, where the amount due is calculated using agreed formulae

Biddable grants, in which potential applicants are invited to bid against funds from a limited pot and the Department makes decisions which bids to support against agreed criteria

Competed grants, in which the Department will invite a number of organisations to submit proposals against the Department's specification before selecting a preferred provider

Direct awards, where the Department will approach a provider directly.

The Department's internal guidance makes it clear that, to ensure the best value for money, some form of competition in the award process is desirable.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many recipients of education maintenance allowance in each constituency receive that allowance *(a)* as a lone parent, *(b)* on leaving custody and *(c)* living away from home. [15582]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Greater Manchester

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many young people received education maintenance allowance in Stretford and Urmston constituency in each of the last three years; and of those how many *(a)* were lone parents, *(b)* had previously been in custody and *(c)* were living away from home; [13436]

(2) how many young people *(a)* in total and *(b)* who (i) were lone parents, (ii) had left custody and (iii) were living away from home received education maintenance allowance in Stretford and Urmston constituency in each of the last three years. [14060]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Stretford and Urmston with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 17 September 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked:

"How many young people received education maintenance allowance in Stretford and Urmston constituency in each of the last three years; and of those how many (a) were lone parents, (b) had previously been in custody and (c) were living away from home." (PQ 13436)

"How many young people (a) in total and (b) who (i) were lone parents, (ii) had left custody and (iii) were living away from home received education maintenance allowance in Stretford and Urmston constituency in each of the last three years." (PQ 14060)

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for Trafford Local Authority area in the last three academic years is as follows:

2007/08: 2,256

2008/09: 2,344

2009/10: 2,660

The EMA application process does not routinely ask for information of the type requested. In certain circumstances, however, the categories of learner you are interested in can be identified from other supporting information provided, although there might be other learners in the totals above who also fall into these categories.

Within the figures above it is possible to identify:

2007/08: Independent Learners - 19; Parents - less than 5*; Young Offenders - less than 5*

2008/09: Independent Learners - less than 5*

2009/10: Independent Learners - 15; Parents- 6; Young Offenders - less than 5 *

Note:

Independent Learners are those who are in receipt of Income Support.

To protect the confidentiality of the learner, and prevent individuals being identified, the precise number is not shown where there are less than 5 learners shown (marked as *).

Parents include all applicants who state they are responsible for a child. We are not able to differentiate between lone parents and other parents.

Young Offenders are those who applied for EMA whilst in custody under the special arrangements that apply for this group.

Data for the 2008/09 year should be treated with caution due to service delivery issues faced during that year which affected the management information available.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 08/09 and 09/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education Maintenance Allowance: Lambeth

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many individuals in *(a)* Streatham constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth have been in receipt of education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction. [15626]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Streatham with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Education: Finance

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to continue to fund Playing for Success education programmes. [7764]

Mr Gibb: Funding to support Playing for Success (PfS) will only be made available until the end of the current financial year. To achieve reductions in the Department's expenditure and contribute to the deficit reduction we have had to make some difficult choices on centrally funded programmes. The Department will work closely with partners to help ensure that the programme, in its final year, supports the creation of networks of self-sustaining PfS centres.

Education: Qualifications

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in each socio-economic group were entered for *(a)* diploma, *(b)* A-level and *(c)* GCSE qualifications in the latest period for which figures are available. [13618]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* The information on qualification entries by socio-economic group is not held by the Department.

However, some information from the Youth Cohort Study and Longitudinal Study of Young People in England on the achievement of GCSEs and A levels by socio-economic group is available from the following links:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000795/index.shtml

Table 4.1.1 and 4.1.2

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000937/index.shtml

Table 2.2.1 and 2.2.2

Information on GCSE and A level attainment by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) is available from the following links:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000909/index.shtml

Table 18

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000906/index.shtml

Table 11.

Family Fund: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what grants have been provided by his Department to the Family Fund in each of the last four financial years. [14380]

Sarah Teather: The Family Fund Trust (FFT) (England) provides grants to families with severely disabled children or young people under 18. Families are eligible to apply for grants if they have an annual income of less than £25,000 before tax. Over the last four years the FFT has received the following in grant funding from the Department:

	Funding £ (million)
2006/07	22.8
2007/08	22.8
2008/09	24.4
2009/10	26.0

Financial Services: Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make training in financial capability an obligatory part of teacher training. [12072]

Mr Gibb: Financial capability is already a subject covered by the standards that trainees have to meet in order to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status. Standard Q15 currently requires all trainee teachers to demonstrate a familiarity with the non-statutory Programmes of Study for personal, social, health and economic education relevant to the age ranges they are training to teach. This includes financial capability within the economic wellbeing Programmes of Study for key stages 3 and 4. Teachers of Business Education in the secondary phase will receive training in aspects of personal finance relevant to the 14-19 curriculum.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of teaching of financial literacy in primary schools. [12073]

Mr Gibb: The current non-statutory guidelines for PSHE recommend that pupils in key stages 1 and 2 (between the ages of five and 11) are taught to look after their money and realise that future wants and needs may be met through saving.

In July, Ofsted published a report on Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education in schools based on evidence from inspections of 165 maintained schools in England between September 2006 and July 2009. Inspectors considered economic understanding and financial capability in 72 of the primary schools visited in the final two years of the survey.

Inspectors found that through activities such as involvement with the community, enterprise days and business links, pupils developed the ability to handle money, to react to specific circumstances, to work collaboratively and to take the initiative.

The report can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Personal-social-health-and-economic-education-in-schools

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make teaching of financial literacy a compulsory part of the national curriculum in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools from September 2011; and if he will make a statement. [12074]

Mr Gibb: Finance education is currently part of non-statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education at Key Stages 1 to 4.

The Government announced on 7 June our intention to make changes to the National Curriculum. We intend to restore the National Curriculum to its original purpose—a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. In doing so, we aim to slim down the National Curriculum to give schools greater freedom to build on the core statutory requirements to provide a rich educational experience for all their pupils, and to allow teachers to use their professional judgment to decide how to teach and to organise the curriculum. We plan to consult a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that our core curriculum can compare with those of the highest performing countries in the world. Further details will be announced in due course.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess, as part of any review of the mathematics curriculum, the potential for the inclusion of teaching of personal financial skills to contribute to raising attainment in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [12076]

Mr Gibb: The Government announced on 7 June our intention to make changes to the National Curriculum. We intend to restore the National Curriculum to its original purpose—a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. In doing so, we aim to slim down the National Curriculum to give schools greater freedom to build on the core statutory requirements to provide a rich educational experience for all their pupils, and to allow teachers to use their professional judgment to decide how to teach and to organise the curriculum. We plan to consult a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that our core curriculum can compare with those of the highest performing countries in the world. Further details will be announced in due course.

Free School Meals: Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils attending schools in Washington and Sunderland West constituency receive free school meals. [14577]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged 5 to 15.

Information on the take-up of free school meals has not been provided because it is not possible to exclude pupils who are below or over compulsory school age and far fewer of these claim for and take free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: School meal arrangements[3], Washington and Sunderland West, January 2010

	Number on roll[4]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
Maintained nursery and primary[1]	6,930	1,760	25.3
State-funded secondary[1,2]	6,480	1,490	23.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

[4] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Free Schools

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects the first new free schools to open. [12217]

Mr Gibb: We expect the first Free Schools to open in September 2011.

Freedom of Information

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which Minister in his Department is responsible for ensuring that responses to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are made within the required timescale. [15489]

Tim Loughton: The Minister within the Department with particular responsibility for Freedom of Information matters is my noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education has ultimate responsibility for the business of the Department.

GCE A-level

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what A-Level courses are offered by each *(a)* sixth form college and *(b)* further education college in each (i) constituency and (ii) local authority area for academic year 2010-11; [13946]

(2) what A-Level courses are available in educational institutions in each constituency in academic year 2010-11. [13947]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

GCSE

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of young people in the 10 local authority areas with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest scores on the 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1992. [15414]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is not available at local authority level. The overall Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which includes income deprivation, is available for county councils and other upper tier local authorities and has been used to identify the 10 local authority areas with *(a)* the greatest and *(b)* the least average scores in the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

The percentage of pupils[1] [2] in the local authorities with the 10 greatest[3] (lowest ranked) average IMD scores achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE and equivalent between 1991-92 and 2008-09[4]*

Ranking	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
Local authority	*Liverpool*	*Hackney*	*Tower Hamlets*	*Manchester*	*Knowsley*
1991-92	21.5	19.4	16.0	18.6	16.3
1992-93	24.8	23.7	18.9	20.5	16.6
1993-94	25.0	22.7	18.7	23.2	21.3
1994-95	26.1	23.9	21.7	22.5	19.2
1995-96	27.6	25.7	23.9	27.0	23.6
1996-97[6]	30.1	30.4	25.7	26.3	23.4
1997-98	30.9	26.5	27.6	28.7	22.9
1998-99	32.4	27.8	31.1	30.2	23.6
1999-2000	35.3	31.5	32.5	30.2	25.0
2000-01	35.2	33.5	34.8	31.0	27.1
2001-02	39.2	31.1	43.7	33.3	30.1
2002-03	41.3	39.2	42.7	39.6	33.5
2003-04[7]	44.6	45.1	48.0	39.5	38.1
2004-05	49.2	47.3	50.9	43.9	44.6
2005-06	54.1	50.9	56.3	47.6	48.8
2006-07	58-3	53.7	59.5	52.2	50.8
2007-08	66.2	56.1	59.1	57.0	57.5
2008-09	73-6	66.9	66.3	62.6	64.0

Ranking	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*
Local authority	*Newham*	*Islington*	*Middlesbrough[5]*	*Birmingham*	*Kingston upon Hull[5]*
1991-92	20.7	19.5	…	25.1	—
1992-93	22.0	20.0	—	26.9	—
1993-94	23.0	21.9	—	30.4	—
1994-95	23.7	17.4	…	31.2	—
1995-96	27.9	22.4	26.9	32.9	22.8
1996-97[6]	33.4	24.9	28.5	35.3	21.4
1997-98	34.0	23.3	27.5	35.9	22.8
1998-99	34.6	27.4	31.0	38.1	23.4
1999-2000	35.8	25.7	34.6	40.8	24.4
2000-01	39.1	28.7	35.0	41.2	27.5
2001-02	42.4	32.9	35.8	45.3	28.9

Ranking	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*
Local authority	*Newham*	*Islington*	*Middlesbrough*[5]	*Birmingham*	*Kingston upon Hull*[5]
2002-03	45.8	38.6	38.8	49.4	32.1
2003-04[7]	49.4	46.0	40.8	51.2	34.7
2004-05	51.0	44.2	45.7	56.6	44.0
2005-06	52.8	47.0	49.1	58.8	52.4
2006-07	55.7	49.3	53.9	61.8	52.0
2007-08	57.5	56.4	61.7	66.6	51.2
2008-09	63.7	65.3	65.2	72.7	65.4

[1] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.

[2] Includes pupils attending schools maintained by Local Authorities, including City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] The 10 local authorities with the greatest average scores are the local authorities in England with the highest level of deprivation based on IMD.(the lower the ranking the higher the level of deprivation).

[4] Data for 1991-92 are pupils turning 16 on 31 August 1992. Data for the years 1992 to 2003-04 are for pupils aged 15 on 31 August in the prior academic year. Data for 2004-05 onwards are for pupils at the end of key stage 4.

[5] Middlesbrough Unitary Authority and Kingston upon Hull Unitary Authority were formed in 1996 after local government reorganisation.

[6] Percentages from 1996-97 include GCSEs and GNVQs.

[7] Percentages from 2003-04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.

Source:

School Achievement and Attainment Tables (Final Data)

The percentage of pupils[1 2] in the local authorities with the 10 lowest[3] (highest ranked) average IMD scores achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE and equivalent between 1991-92 and 2008-09[4]*

Ranking	*140*	*141*	*142*	*143*	*144*
Local authority	*Wiltshire*	*South Gloucestershire*[5]	*Richmond upon Thames*	*Buckinghamshire*	*Bracknell Forest*[5]
1991-92	40.2	—	42.5	45.0	—
1992-93	42.7	—	44.7	46.8	—
1993-94	45.5	—	50.0	49.4	—
1994-95	48.4	—	48.1	49.1	—
1995-96	48.3	44.7	52.2	50.5	—
1996-97[6]	50.5	44.6	46.5	59.7	—
1997-98	51.9	45.1	50.6	59.5	45.4
1998-99	52.3	47.6	51.9	61.0	45.4
1999-2000	55.5	47.7	51.1	61.6	46.6
2000-01	55.5	48.7	54.6	63.4	49.1
2001-02	57.0	52.4	51.4	64.4	45.5
2002-03	57.6	54.1	56.8	65.5	49.2
2003-04[7]	56.6	50.0	55.5	65.9	52.4
2004-05	58.2	55.5	54.9	67.6	54.3
2005-06	58.2	54.9	56.5	68.8	59.8
2006-07	59.6	56.2	58.2	69.6	59.7
2007-08	64.8	63.6	64.1	72.6	61.6
2008-09	68.6	68.7	70.9	75.5	63.7

Ranking	*145*	*146*	*147*	*148*	*149*
Local authority	*Windsor and Maidenhead*[5]	*West Berkshire*[5]	*Surrey*	*Rutland*[5]	*Wokingham*[5]
1991-92	—	—	44.3	—	—
1992-93	—	—	47.0	—	—
1993-94	—	—	47.8	—	—
1994-95	—	—	49.3	—	—
1995-96	—	—	50.5	—	—
1996-97[6]	—	—	51.0	—	—
1997-98	57.2	54.5	53.6	44.0	56.2
1998-99	57.9	56.8	56.6	58.9	58.2
1999-2000	59.2	56.0	57.6	61.6	59.8
2000-01	58.8	56.1	58.2	57.2	61.3
2001-02	56.4	57.1	58.4	61.1	62.6
2002-03	59.8	60.6	59.4	62.4	62.7
2003-04[7]	59.6	61.0	58.6	58.2	62.2
2004-05	59.5	60.9	61.3	66.5	60.8
2005-06	64.2	65.0	63.0	68.2	64.5
2006-07	64.7	63.3	65.3	68.9	66.4
2007-08	69.9	64.1	69.1	71.0	70.7

Ranking	*145*	*146*	*147*	*148*	*149*
Local authority	*Windsor and Maidenhead*[5]	*West Berkshire*[5]	*Surrey*	*Rutland*[5]	*Wokingham*[5]
2008-09	76.4	68.4	71.9	73.4	73.6

[1] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.

[2] Includes pupils attending schools maintained by local authorities, including city technology colleges and academies.

[3] The 10 local authorities with the lowest average scores are the local authorities in England with the lowest level of deprivation based on IMD (the higher the ranking the lower the level of deprivation).

[4] Data for 1991-92 are pupils turning 16 on 31 August 1992. Data for the years 1992 to 2003-04 are for pupils aged 15 on 31 August in the prior academic year. Data for 2004-05 onwards are for pupils at the end of key stage 4

[5] South Gloucestershire Unitary Authority was formed in 1996 after local government reorganisation. Rutland Unitary Authority was formed in 1997. Bracknell Forest Unitary Authority, Windsor and Maidenhead Unitary Authority, West Berkshire Unitary Authority and Wokingham Unitary Authority were formed in 1998.

[6] Percentages from 1996/97 include GCSEs and GNVQs.

[7] Percentages from 2003/04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.

Source:

School Achievement and Attainment Tables (Final Data)

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils achieved at least five GCSEs, including English and mathematics *(a)* in total, *(b)* in schools where fewer than 5 per cent. of children were eligible for free school meals and *(c)* in schools where more than 50 per cent. of children were eligible for free school meals in each of the last five years. [15415]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* The information requested for 2009 is presented in the following table:

Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2009	*Proportion achieving at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C including English and mathematics (percentage)*	*Proportion achieving at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-G including English and mathematics (percentage)*
All schools	49.8	88.3
All maintained schools[1]	50.7	92.1
Maintained schools where fewer than 5% of pupils were eligible for FSM[2]	72.0	97.5
Maintained schools where 50% or more of pupils were eligible for FSM[2]	33.0	79.0

[1] Maintained schools include academies, CTCs and special schools but exclude hospital schools and pupil referral units.

[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration who are full time and aged 0 to 15 (inclusive) and those who are part time and aged 5 to 15 (inclusive) as at January 2009.

Head Teachers: Length of Service

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an assessment of the merits of term limits for the post of head teacher. [4914]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the merits of term limits for head teachers and has no plans to do so.

Ofsted: Contracts

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) which companies Ofsted sub-contracts to conduct inspections of local authority secure units and secure training centres; [14281]

(2) which companies Ofsted sub-contracts to conduct inspections of schools. [14282]

Mr Gibb: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and copies of her letter have been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 8 September 2010:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted awarded contracts to three companies to carry out inspections of schools from September 2009. The three companies deliver inspection services in the following geographical areas:

North: CfBT Education Trust

Midlands: Serco Education & Children's Services

South: Tribal Education Ltd.

Ofsted does not sub-contract the inspections of local authority secure units or secure training centres. These inspections are carried out by Ofsted-employed inspectors.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Outdoor Education

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the Sixth Report of the Children, Schools and Families Committee of Session 2009-10, HC 418, on Transforming Education Outside the Classroom. [7868]

Mr Gibb: The Government responded to the report on 20 September.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which directorate of his Department has responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of its policy on (i) sexual and reproductive health education and (ii) personal, social and health education; how many officials in his Department at each pay band are employed in each such directorate; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [5436]

Mr Gibb: Formulation and implementation of policy on abortion and sexual and reproductive health is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health. Within the Department for Education Personal, Social, Economic and Health Education is one of the responsibilities of the 71-strong Curriculum and Pupil Well Being Group in the Education Standards Directorate, liaising with other Groups in the DfE. Specific PSHE responsibilities are spread across a number of grades. The current postholders have all served in a variety of other posts in the past.

Primary Education: Capital Investment

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in which year the rebuilding of Selby Park primary school under the Primary Capital Programme will commence. [12407]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* Nottinghamshire local authority was allocated £16.7 million Primary Capital funding for 2008-11. Decisions on investment priorities and delivery timescales are determined locally.

Primary Education: Languages

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on requiring primary schools to include modern languages in the curriculum. [15413]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* We have announced that we will be reviewing the National Curriculum so as to return it to its intended purpose as a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. We will be announcing details of that review in the autumn. The position of languages in both the primary and secondary National Curriculum will be considered as part of that review.

We believe that language skills are important to both the educational development of children and the social and economic future of the country. We know that the great majority of primary schools are already offering some language teaching to their seven to 11-year-olds and we want primary schools that are teaching languages to continue to do so.

Pupils: Bullying

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to assist schools to reduce levels of bullying. [13232]

Mr Gibb: The coalition Government have made it a priority to tackle bullying. The Government will give schools the legal powers they need to take a zero-tolerance approach to tackling bad behaviour and bullying. In July I announced that we would remove the requirement on schools to give parents 24 hours written notice for detentions outside school hours and extend teachers' powers to search pupils.

We will issue shorter and clearer guidance on how to prevent and tackle bullying and we are working with Ofsted to ensure that tackling bad behaviour and bullying is given more prominence in planned changes to school inspection.

We will announce further steps to reduce bullying in schools in due course.

Pupil: Premium

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the London borough of (i) Camden and (ii) Brent which will qualify for receipt of the pupil premium. [11833]

Mr Gibb: On Monday, 26 July we launched a consultation to seek views on how best to operate the pupil premium including which deprivation indicator to use. Our intention is that the pupil premium should be allocated to schools on the basis of the number of deprived children attending that school. Until we have decided which deprivation measure to use it is not possible to estimate the number of children covered.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many pupils who received free school meals in year 11, went on to *(a)* study A-Levels, *(b)* undertake an apprenticeship and *(c)* participate in other forms of education or training in each of the last five years; [13942]

(2) how many pupils who received free school meals in year 11 continued to *(a)* sixth form college, *(b)* a further education college, *(c)* employment-based training, *(d)* full-time employment, *(e)* part-time employment, *(f)* part-time education or training and *(g)* unemployment in each of the last five years. [13943]

Mr Gibb: Estimates of the activities of young people who had been in receipt of free school meals (FSM) in year 11 are shown in the following table. The information is based on what they were doing in the first year after completing compulsory education. The source of these estimates is the Department for Education's matched administrative data. This source cannot provide information on the employment status of young people.

Activiti [illegible] academic age 16 of young people who had been in receipt of free school meals in year 11

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Qualification type					
A/AS-levels (%)	21	21	23	24	24
Apprenticeships (%)	6	5	5	5	5
Other education and training (%)	52	53	54	58	59
No recorded education or training[1] (%)	22	20	18	14	13
Total (=100%)	83,000	81,000	79,000	78,000	75,000
Mode of study and institution type					
Full time education (%)	60	61	65	69	70
of which:					
Sixth Form College (%)	8	9	8	9	9

Activities at academic age 16 of young people who had been in receipt of free school meals in year 11

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Other Further Education College (%)	32	34	36	37	39
Maintained mainstream school (%)	18	18	20	21	20
Other (%)	2	1	1	2	2
Work Based Learning (%)	6	5	5	5	5
Part time education or training (%)	12	13	12	13	12
No recorded education or training (%)	22	20	18	14	13
Total (=100%)	83,000	81,000	79,000	78,000	75,000

[1] The participation data only include education or training involving formal qualifications. The "No recorded education or training" category will also include young people who have migrated outside of England since the year 11 spring school census and also any instances where the participation of young people at 16 could not be matched with their earlier FSM receipt in year 11.

Pupils: Multiple Births

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will take steps to ensure schools involve parents of multiple birth children in deciding whether their children should be placed in the same or a separate class when starting school; and if he will make a statement; [12428]

(2) what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the Chief Schools Adjudicator that *(a)* the admission code be altered to ensure that multiple birth children are allocated places together at primary school by adding them to the list of excepted pupils in the class size regulations and *(b)* that admission authorities be compelled to consult on and publish arrangements for the admission of multiple birth children. [12429]

Mr Gibb: It is for schools to determine in which classes children from multiple births should be placed, but I would expect their parents to be consulted in each case.

My hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the Chief Adjudicator's recommendations to the previous Secretary of State regarding the admission to the same school of twins and other children from multiple births, and will announce in due course any policy changes which may arise.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was spent on education per pupil in Wolverhampton North East constituency *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. [13377]

Mr Gibb: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Wolverhampton North East as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information on how much was spent per head in Wolverhampton local authority is shown in the following table.

The Department is currently collecting and validating the section 251 Outturn data relating to the 2009-10 financial year.

School based expenditure per pupil in Wolverhampton local authority for 1997-98 and 2008-09

	Total (including pre-primary)		*Total (excluding pre-primary)*	
	Wolverhampton	*England*	*Wolverhampton*	*England*
1997-98	2,110	2,080	[1]—	[1]—
2008-09	[1]—	[1]—	4,970	4,460

[1] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the Revenue Outturn collection by CLG to the Section 52 (now section 251) collection by the DfE. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the Outturn tables.

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

2. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DfE Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis. 3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by LAs as at 6 September 2010.

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his timetable is for the reallocation of the functions of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency. [15345]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 September 2010]:* On 15 September my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the chair of the QCDA setting out its revised remit and budget for the current year and indicating how continuing functions will be handled. A copy of that letter has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the number of staff of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency that will be retained. [15346]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 September 2010]:* On 15 September my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the chair of the QCDA setting out its revised remit and budget for the current year and indicating how continuing functions will be handled. A copy of that letter has been placed in the House Libraries.

Qualifications: Plumbing

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to ensure full-time provision for 16 to 18 year olds in *(a)* level 1, *(b)* level 2 and *(c)* level 3 plumbing qualifications from September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [13687]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* A number of colleges and employers are concerned that changes proposed to the content and funding arrangements for sector-endorsed plumbing qualifications risk excluding full-time students and, that in many cases the full-time offer for 16 to 18-year-olds does not properly prepare them for employment. The Government take these concerns seriously. The regulator, Ofqual, the funding agencies and the Sector Skills Council 'Summit Skills' have agreed to defer the date of the proposed changes from September 2010 to spring 2011. Officials from the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will use the autumn term to work with all key partners, including colleges, to look more closely at the issues and I will be happy to make a statement once this work has concluded.

School Meals: Standards

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to bring forward proposals to repeal or amend the provisions of the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) (England) Regulations 2006. [14570]

Mr Gibb: The Government take the matter of healthy school meals very seriously. We recognise that healthy school food can help to improve children's readiness to learn and their behaviour at school, and that it can also help to establish healthy eating habits for life.

Statutory nutritional standards for school lunches became fully implemented in September 2009 and need to be given time to settle in. We are considering when it would be timely to review the standards but at present, we have no plans to repeal or amend the standards.

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made by his Department since July 2010 on preventing the bullying and intimidation of Jewish children in schools; what conclusions were reached at the meeting he had with representatives of the Jewish community on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [14349]

Mr Gibb: The coalition Government have made it a priority to tackle bullying, particularly bullying motivated by prejudice. It is not acceptable for a child to be victimised because of their race or religion. The Government will empower schools so that they can take a zero-tolerance approach to tackling bad behaviour and bullying.

We will issue clearer guidance to schools on these issues and work with Ofsted to ensure that tackling bad behaviour and bullying is given more prominence in planned changes to school inspection.

The Secretary of State has met with representatives of the Jewish community on a range of issues, including school security, but not specifically on bullying.

Schools: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what grants his Department has made to Bedfordshire County Council for schools outside the per pupil funding formula for each year since 1996-97. [11811]

Mr Gibb: Tables have been placed in the House Libraries, setting out the grants allocated to Bedfordshire county council for schools for each year from 1996-97 to 2008-09, and 2009-10 to 2010-11 for the two successor unitary authorities, Bedford borough, and central Bedfordshire. These grants were allocated in addition to per pupil formula funding allocated through the local government finance system up to 2005-06, and Dedicated Schools Grant since 2006-07.

Schools: Capital Investment

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will allocate funds to *(a)* Joseph Whitaker School, Rainworth and *(b)* Dukeries College, Ollerton for the purpose of improving school buildings. [13077]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of all aspects of the Department for Education's capital spending. All future capital investment, including allocations to Nottinghamshire schools, will be determined following the outcome of the capital review.

The capital review team will be providing advice to Ministers for use in the comprehensive spending review, and will complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

Schools: Discipline

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what additional powers he plans to give to teachers to ensure discipline in the classroom. [13234]

Mr Gibb: We have made it a priority to improve standards of behaviour and discipline in schools.

On 7 July I announced to the House the first of a number of measures to give teachers the powers and freedoms they need to maintain discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour. The measures I announced include removing the requirement for schools to give 24 hour notice when issuing detentions, extending teachers' powers to search pupils and clarifying their powers to use force. I refer the hon. Member to the *Official Report*, of 7 July 2010, column 11WS.

I will be announcing further measures in due course, including measures to tackle bullying.

Schools: Finance

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of employing each additional *(a)* primary school teacher, *(b)* secondary school teacher and *(c)* classroom assistant in the maintained sector. [14037]

Tim Loughton: The average annual cost per regular full-time qualified classroom teacher in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools in England and Wales as at March 2009 was £38,600. For local authority maintained secondary schools it was £42,700. These figures include superannuation and employers' national insurance contributions. The average is for all regular full-time qualified teachers in England and Wales except head, deputy and assistant head teachers.

The Department does not currently gather the support staff pay data that would be needed to estimate accurately the average cost of employing a classroom assistant in the maintained sector. There is no central mechanism for deciding the pay of school support staff, with employers having responsibility for determining the salaries of school support staff at local level. However, some research data exist, for example, the Deployment and Impact of Support Staff in Schools (Blatchford et al., 2009) reported that the hourly wage of teaching assistant equivalent staff as at 2008 was £10.28, based on sample survey data collated over several years. This does not include superannuation or employers' national insurance contributions. This figure includes the salaries of teaching assistants, higher level teaching assistants, nursery nurses, therapists and learning support assistants for pupils with special educational needs. The figure includes staff in primary and secondary schools and schools for pupils with special educational needs.

Schools: Information and Communications Technology

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to support for educational activities of information and communication technology and broadband. [10348]

Mr Gibb: The international 'Study of the Impact of Technology in Primary Schools' (STEPS) funded by the European Community (EC) investigated the primary education systems of 30 countries, measuring the impact of ICT on learning. Schools which make use of broadband connectivity are found to have improved academic results and increased learner motivation compared to those which do not make use of this technology.

However technology does not on its own guarantee educational success. Evidence shows that technology has a positive impact on learning and broader outcomes when it is used as part of good teaching practice.

Schools: Management

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to his contribution of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 29, on the free schools policy, whether the New Schools Network will have a role in co-ordinating expressions of interest in the free schools programme; and what services his Department has contracted the New Schools Network to provide in the last 12 months. [6335]

Mr Gibb: On 18 June 2010 the Department agreed to enter into a grant agreement with New Schools Network (NSN) to provide support for groups wanting to find out more about setting up a free school. It is supporting groups to develop and submit to the Department a proposal to establish a free school.

Schools: Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* support staff including teaching assistants were employed in maintained schools in (i) 1997 and (ii) May 2007. [14029]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is published in Table 1 within the Statistical First Release, 'School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures), January 2009 (revised)' published on 29 September 2009. It is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables1to18v2.xls

Schools: Standards

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in *(a)* all schools and *(b)* schools rated outstanding in their most recent Ofsted inspection received free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [12530]

Mr Gibb: The average percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals in schools generally is 17.4. The average for schools rated outstanding by Ofsted at their last inspection up to the end of March 2010 is 13.4%.

Schools: Water

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to improve water and toilet facilities at schools. [12066]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2010]*: The Department is reviewing its capital spending to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage. As part of this we will take into account the work that was carried out before the General Election to review the 1999 School Premises Regulations and their coverage of toilet and drinking water provision in schools.

We will consult on any proposals and announce our plans in due course.

Secondary Education: Oldham

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* present provision for Roman Catholic secondary education in Oldham and *(b)* proposals for a new Roman Catholic secondary school in Oldham; and if he will make a statement; [11295]

(2) when he expects to make an announcement on the future of Roman Catholic state secondary education in Oldham. [11296]

Mr Gibb: Under current legislation local authorities are responsible for planning and securing sufficient suitable maintained schools in their area. Where changes to existing schools are proposed a statutory process must be followed which is decided under established local decision-making arrangements. The proposal from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford to establish a new voluntary aided Roman Catholic secondary school in Oldham on 1 September 2012, to replace two closing Roman Catholic schools, was approved by the local authority on 23 March 2009.

The Secretary of State's announcement on 6 August included allocation of capital for the proposed new Roman Catholic school in Oldham.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision he plans to make for Special Educational Needs capital expenditure in Gateshead in each of the next three years. [12169]

Mr Gibb: Gateshead has been allocated £1 million over the past three years for the Schools Access Initiative. Depending on priorities set locally, Gateshead can also use funding from the £5 million modernisation programme to help pupils with special needs, or other resources raised locally; this programme is not ring-fenced.

The Capital Review team will be providing advice to Ministers for use in the Comprehensive Spending Review, and will complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

Teachers and Classroom Assistants: Pay

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of the average cost to a *(a)* school and *(b)* local authority of employing a (i) teacher and (ii) classroom assistant; and what forecast he has made of the cost in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [15623]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 16 September 2010]*: The average annual cost per regular full-time qualified classroom teacher in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, schools for pupils with special educational needs and pupil referral units in England and Wales as at March 2009 was £41,000. These data are provisional and are the most recent available. The average cost for financial year 2009-10 is forecast to be £41,600; for 2010-11 it is forecast to be £42,600 and for 2011-12 and 2012-13 it is forecast to be £43,100. The forecasts are based on the headline pay awards that have been previously announced of 2.3% in September 2009 and September 2010 followed by a two year pay freeze. Further years will depend on recommendations made by the independent school teachers' review body. These figures include employers' superannuation and employers' national insurance contributions. With regard to national insurance contributions, the secondary threshold and upper accruals point in 2011-12 are increased based on the announcements and forecast indexation rate in the June 2010 budget. These are assumed to remain the same for 2012-13. The average is for all regular full-time qualified teachers in England and Wales except head, deputy and assistant head teachers.

The Department does not currently gather the support staff pay data that would be needed to estimate accurately the average cost of employing a classroom assistant in the maintained sector. There is no central mechanism for deciding the pay of school support staff, with employers having responsibility for determining the salaries of school support staff at local level. As such it is not possible to make accurate forecasts of the future costs of support staff. However, some research data exist, for example, the Deployment and Impact of Support Staff in Schools (Blatchford et al., 2009) reported that the hourly wage of teaching assistant equivalent staff as at 2008 was £10.28, based on sample survey data collated over several years. This does not include superannuation or employers' national insurance contributions. This figure includes the salaries of teaching assistants, higher level teaching assistants, nursery nurses, therapists and learning support assistants for pupils with special educational needs. The figure includes staff in primary and secondary schools and schools for pupils with special educational needs.

Teachers: Pay

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average salary for a primary school teacher was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Leeds North West constituency in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available. [12887]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the average gross salary (mean) of full-time qualified regular teachers in service in England, Leeds local authority and Leeds North West constituency in March 2009, the latest information available.

Average gross salary (mean), of full-time regular qualified teachers[1] in local authority maintained[2] primary schools: Year: March 2009 (provisional): Coverage: England, Leeds local authority and Leeds North West constituency[3]

	Mean salary (£)
England	35,480
Leeds local authority	34,400
Leeds North West constituency	35,350

[1] All grades including head, deputy and assistant head teachers.
[2] Excludes any primary-age-range academies.
[3] Revised constituency boundary as at 6 May 2010 general election.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Physics

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's target is for the future number of specialist physics teachers. [13804]

Mr Gibb: The Government accept that there is a continuing need to increase the number of physics and other science teachers, in order to attract more top science graduates into the profession. We are therefore reviewing the routes into teaching and the incentives offered to well qualified people who want to teach science disciplines. We have already announced plans to double the number of participants in the successful Teach First scheme so that more schools may benefit from the talents of some of the country's best graduates. Three quarters of Teach First participants teach in the more demanding shortage subjects, including mathematics and science.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 12029, tabled on 23 July 2010, on ministerial meetings. [15479]

Tim Loughton: A response was issued to the hon. Member on 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1176W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the Warthog all-terrain vehicle to be fully deployed in Afghanistan; [14422]

(2) when he expects the first Warthog all-terrain vehicle to arrive in Afghanistan; [14423]

(3) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the time taken to deliver the Warthog all-terrain vehicle. [14424]

Peter Luff: The first Warthog vehicle arrived in Afghanistan on 10 September 2010, three months ahead of the original schedule. It is planned that Warthog will reach full operating capability by the end of the year.

The Ministry of Defence has worked successfully against an aggressive schedule to deliver this capability to our armed forces as early as possible. This has included rigorous testing, which has been undertaken over the past eight months to ensure that Warthog is ready to deal with the demanding Afghan terrain and changing threats from insurgents. The project delivery schedule has been subjected to routine review and assessment, taking into account results from tests and trials, to ensure that the project delivers the operational requirement as quickly as possible, without compromising essential safety, reliability and protection standards.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of UK military operations in Afghanistan since 2001; what factors he took into account in making this estimate; and if he will make a statement. [14722]

Dr Fox: The net additional costs of operations in Afghanistan from 2001 to the end of financial year 2009-10 was £9.5 billion. The estimated cost for this financial year is £4.4 billion as recently published in Ministry of Defence's main estimates. The costs that the MOD would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises for example—are included.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Pashtuns serving in the Afghan *(a)* army and *(b)* police in Helmand province who originate from that province. [15555]

Mr Robathan: We have not carried out an estimate of the number of Pashtuns serving in the Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police in Helmand province who originate from Helmand Province. The ethnicity and origins of members of these forces is a matter for the Government of Afghanistan.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what weapons systems UK forces have trained the Afghan army to operate. [15556]

Nick Harvey: UK forces have trained the Afghan National Army with a range of weapons. These include AK47 variants in addition to types of pistols, machine guns and grenade launchers.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what vehicles the Afghan army operates; and what vehicles he expects it to operate in 2015; [15557]

(2) which models of aircraft the Afghan armed forces *(a)* operate and *(b)* expect to operate in 2015. [15558]

Nick Harvey: We do not comment on the capabilities of other nations. I am therefore unable to provide details on the vehicles and models of aircraft operated by the Afghan National Army and what it expects to operate in 2015.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which are sustained or created by the aircraft carrier contracts *(a)* on the Clyde and *(b)* at Rosyth; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects in each area of a decision to reduce the number of carriers to (i) one and (ii) zero. [15671]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence is examining a range of factors relating to this programme, including industrial and employment issues, as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, which will conclude in the autumn in co-ordination with the Government's spending review.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date *(a)* his Department asked BAE Systems to consider reducing the number of ships in the Queen Elizabeth carrier class programme from two to one or zero and *(b)* he advised the Secretary of State for Scotland that his Department had done so. [15672]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* To inform the ongoing work of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, BAE Systems Surface Ships was asked by the Department to investigate the implications of reducing the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers from two ships to one or zero on 2 September 2010.

The Secretary of State for Defence has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland on a range of issues across defence.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the number of jobs sustained by the aircraft carrier programmes in Scotland. [15673]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Defence has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland on a range of issues across defence.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails his Department has received (i) in favour and (ii) against the construction of the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers in the last six months. [15760]

Peter Luff: The Department has received the following pieces of correspondence that could easily be identified as expressing a "for or against" opinion regarding the construction of the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers in the last six months.

	For QE class	*Against QE class*
Letter	4	12
E-mail	108	46
Total	112	58

The Strategic Defence and Security Review team within the Ministry of Defence has also received a substantial amount of correspondence in this period covering a wide range of issues, but reviewing this information to determine any "for or against" carrier opinion can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the construction of the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers in the last six months. [15761]

Peter Luff: Since taking office in May, the Secretary of State for Defence has received several representations on the construction of the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers, including meetings with industry and correspondence from non-governmental organisations, members of the public and members of this House.

Armed Forces: Education

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on education in *(a)* independent and *(b)* boarding schools for families of members of the armed forces in each of the last 13 years. [14668]

Mr Robathan: All schools on the list of approved schools provide boarding facilities. Details on how much was spent on schools in the independent sector could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the total spend I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 166W, to the hon. Member for Ashfield (Gloria De Piero).

Armed Forces: Foreign Workers

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens of each country were members of each armed service on the latest date for which figures are available. [14768]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following table:

1 July 2010

	All services	*Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*
Total	189,415	38,795	106,870	43,750
UK National	179,715	37,805	98,400	43,505
Ascension Islander	[1]—	0	[1]—	0
Bermudan	[1]—	[1]—	0	0
British	179,315	37,790	98,035	43,495
British Overseas Territory Citizen	375	15	350	10
Gibraltarian	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0
St Helenian	15	[1]—	15	0
Irish Republic and Commonwealth	8,865	835	7,895	130
Antiguan	[1]—	0	[1]—	0
Australian	95	15	75	[1]—
Bahamian	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0
Bangladeshi	10	0	10	0
Barbadian	15	5	10	0
Belizean	50	0	50	0
Botswanan	40	[1]—	35	[1]—
British Commonwealth	5	0	5	0
Cameroonian	75	[1]—	75	[1]—
Canadian	70	25	45	5
Citizen of Fiji	2,310	135	2,165	10
Citizen of Seychelles	15	0	15	0
Citizen of Sri Lanka	15	[1]—	10	[1]—
Dominican	30	5	25	0
Gambian	300	20	280	0
Ghanaian	950	15	935	[1]—
Grenadian	150	10	140	[1]—
Guyanese	30	[1]—	30	0
Indian	120	5	110	[1]—
Irish	395	65	300	30
Jamaican	570	30	525	15
Kenyan	225	15	205	[1]—
Lesotho	[1]—	0	[1]—	0
Malawian	260	10	245	[1]—

1 July 2010

	All services	*Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*
Maltese	10	[1]—	5	0
Mauritian	60	[1]—	55	[1]—
Namibian	5	0	[1]—	[1]—
New Zealander	95	15	75	5
Nigerian	205	15	190	0
Pakistani	20	[1]—	15	0
Papua New Guinean	[1]—	0	[1]—	0
Sierra Leonean	45	[1]—	45	0
Singaporean	[1]—	0	[1]—	0
South African	1,015	100	910	10
St Lucian	305	15	295	[1]—
Swazi	20	0	20	0
Tanzanian	10	0	10	0
Tongan	5	0	5	0
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	110	35	70	10
Ugandan	85	[1]—	80	[1]—
Vincentian	600	250	350	[1]—
Zambian	50	10	40	[1]—
Zimbabwean	465	25	430	10
Nepalese	450	0	450	0
Other Foreign	30	5	20	[1]—
Unknown	355	145	105	105

[1] Denotes less than five.

Notes:

1. The figures exclude the Brigade of Ghurkhas and those listed against Nepalese comprise those individuals who have transferred to the Regular Army.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest five.
3. 'Other Foreign' personnel comprise those with dual nationality.
4. 'Unknown' comprises those where no nationality data was recorded.

Armed Forces: Officers

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ratio is of officers to non-officers in each of the armed forces. [15787]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 July 2010, the ratio of officers to other ranks in each of the armed forces is given in the following table:

UK Regular Forces personnel at 1 July 2010

	Royal Navy	*Army*	*RAF*
Total	38,800	106,870	43,750
Officers	7,490	14,800	9,780
Other ranks	31,300	92,070	33,970
Ratio officers to other ranks	1:4.2	1:6.2	1:3.5

Armed Forces: Public Appointments

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an assessment of the merits of establishing a military post of UK cyberspace commander. [14128]

Nick Harvey: Cyber security is an important element of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). Decisions on enhancing our capabilities will form part of the SDSR, which we will announce to the House later this autumn.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to review *(a)* tendering processes for military clothing and *(b)* the Interim New Clothing Solution to ensure (i) appropriateness of tender specifications and fitness for purpose and (ii) value for money. [15915]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence tendering process for military clothing is carried out in accordance with the European Union Public Contracts Regulations, which is statute legislation and Office of Government Commerce expectations.

The Interim New Clothing Solution (iNCS) enables 40,000 service personnel to order their military clothing via an internet website. The clothing is provided under existing MOD contracts, therefore, only items of clothing that are fit for purpose are provided. The iNCS is subject to regular reviews to ensure that the expectations of our service personnel continue to be met and that value for money is being achieved. The teams responsible for providing clothing seek constant feedback from the front line to see what people need and what is working.

The iNCS will inform the development of the full New Clothing Solution project, modernising the defence clothing supply chain following best practice in industry to ensure that service personnel receive the right kit, at the right time, in the right place. This will consider a range of options with a decision being made on the basis of overall value for money. This work is due to be completed in 2013.

Astute Class Submarines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the construction of the Astute class submarines in the last six months. [15762]

Peter Luff: Since taking office in May, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence has received several representations on the construction of the Astute class submarines, including correspondence from industry, non-governmental organisations and Members of this House. Given the informal nature of some of these representations, it would not be possible to provide a detailed list.

Christopher Myers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the participation of Christopher Myers in a visit to Afghanistan in January 2010. [15759]

Dr Fox: Mr Myers was the assistant accompanying the then Shadow Foreign Secretary when he visited Afghanistan with the Shadow Chancellor in January 2010. The Ministry of Defence costs directly attributable to Mr Myers during the visit were £278.

Defence Estates

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to page 6 of the National Audit Office report on A defence estate of the right size to meet operational needs, Session 2010-11, HC70, what the location is of each of the 200 sites with the greatest potential for receipts identified by his Department. [15911]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has drawn up a list of sites which are believed to have the greatest potential for receipts. However the list has been prepared solely to inform decision-making and inclusion on the list does not imply that sites are surplus or likely to become so.

To release the list could put MOD at a disadvantage should any sites be brought forward for disposal on the open market in future, and impact on the benefit of such disposals to the taxpayer generally. For that reason I am withholding the list on the grounds that it could be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs and of commercial confidentiality.

A list of the sites in the present disposal programme and those currently earmarked for future disposal is available the Library.

Defence: Expenditure

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual percentage change in defence spending was between *(a)* 1980 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and 2010. [14123]

Dr Fox: The average annual percentage change in defence spending between 1980-81 and 1997-98 was minus 1.2% in real terms.

The average annual percentage change in defence spending between 1997-98 and 2009-10 was plus 2.5% in real terms.

The variation reflects the changing strategic environment over time.

More detailed defence expenditure figures can be found in UK Defence Statistics, copies of which are available in the Library.

Defence: Procurement

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will take steps to encourage defence contractors to increase the value for money of procurement contracts with HM Government by taking account of export opportunities; [14996]

(2) if he will take steps to encourage defence contractors to develop generic platforms for use in a range of applications; [14997]

(3) if he will take steps to reduce the number of changes in customer specification in defence procurement contracts. [14998]

Peter Luff: Yes. As part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and Defence Reform Review announced by the Secretary of State for Defence and building on the Defence Strategy for Acquisition Reform published in February 2010, the Department is taking a number of steps to achieve an affordable, balanced and agile programme and value for money for the taxpayer.

This will require a balance to be struck between a number of complex and interrelated issues, including:

the adoption of innovative solutions exploiting open systems architecture and, where appropriate, generic platforms;

robust control of the number of changes to customer specifications throughout the life of a project and;

ensuring that due account is taken of export opportunities in the development of solutions.

These aspects are actively being addressed as part of the Defence Acquisition Reform Programme and Through Life Capability Management.

We have also recently reinforced direct links between the MOD and the UK Trade and Industry Defence and Security Organisation in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to ensure that export opportunities are now routinely considered as new projects are initiated.

These issues will be further addressed in the forthcoming Defence Industry and Technology Policy Green and White Papers, which will pay particular attention to ensuring the exportability of defence equipment developed for the MOD.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's chief scientific officer since 6 May 2010. [15441]

Dr Fox: I have met Professor Mark Welland, the Ministry of Defence's chief scientific adviser (CSA), twice since 6 May 2010. The Minister of State for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology has also met him twice during this period.

In addition, Defence Ministers and the CSA regularly meet as part of larger Board or Committee discussions.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff his Department employs to consider *(a)* departmental and *(b)* national strategy; what output such staff are required to produce; and if he will make a statement. [15598]

Dr Fox: The Director General Strategy is responsible for the Defence contribution to cross-Whitehall strategy. He has three teams focused principally on this work. They currently comprise 46 staff. Their main outputs are the Defence Strategic Direction, Defence Plan and, at the moment, the Defence contribution to the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010; [10108]

(2) how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [15147]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence did not spend any money on hospitality for events hosted by Ministers during May.

On 2 June 2010, the Minister for International Strategy and Security hosted a reception to mark the visit of the NATO Defence College, which was attended by over 200 guests from the various countries with members on the course. The total cost for this event was £3,025.

On 28 June 2010, the Secretary of State hosted a lunch for a delegation from Germany including the Defence Minister, at a total cost of £1,412.

Both events were important in furthering relations with our key partners, and the expenditure was in accordance with the rules governing official use of hospitality.

On 26 July 2010, the Under-Secretary of State and Lords Spokesman on Defence hosted a meeting to brief other members of the House of Lords and ex-Service Chiefs on Defence issues. The total cost for this event was £99.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent in each *(a)* nation of the UK and *(b)* region of England in each of the last six years. [15475]

Nick Harvey: Estimated direct Ministry of Defence (MOD) expenditure for the nations of the United Kingdom and the regions of England for the latest six years, where data are available, are presented in the following tables. These estimates cover MOD expenditure on equipment, non-equipment, service and civilian personnel costs.

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

Nation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
United Kingdom	22,230	23,720	23,630	25,540	26,080	25,920
England	19,800	21,010	21,120	22,890	23,450	23,310
Scotland	1,560	1,720	1,640	1,710	1,630	1,560
Wales	340	430	360	380	410	390
Northern Ireland	540	550	510	560	590	660

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

Regions of England	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East	2,440	2,460	2,380	2,660	2,440	2,250
East Midlands	700	760	790	990	940	950
London	1,590	1,670	1,810	1,440	1,440	1,610
North East	280	400	350	390	440	370
North West	1,940	2,190	1,960	1,920	2,360	2,140
South East	5,720	5,880	5,210	7,100	6,940	7,110
South West	5,250	5,650	5,750	5,350	5,560	5,510
West Midlands	950	1,000	910	970	1,180	1,250
Yorkshire and Humberside	930	990	970	1,060	1,150	1,130

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. All totals have been calculated using unrounded data.
3. Indirect expenditure, such as subcontracted work, is not reflected in these figures.
4. Personnel costs exclude contributions made by MOD to the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme and War Pensions Scheme.

The MOD no longer compiles estimates of expenditure at the sub-UK areas described in the table as they do not directly support policy making or operations. The last estimates relate to 2007-08.

As a result, the complex data analysis required to produce the underlying sub-UK expenditure data are no longer performed. To produce a comparable time series beyond 2007-08 would incur disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Housing

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to assist ex-service personnel to obtain housing. [15108]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) encourages its serving personnel to prepare for their return to civilian life during their careers by purchasing their own homes. Measures include the Long Service Advance of Pay, an interest-free loan of up to £8,500, and the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme, a shared equity initiative.

Further information on civilian housing is available for all Service personnel, in particular those about to return to civilian life, through the MOD Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO). JSHAO provide briefings to Service families on their housing options ranging from home ownership through to applying for social housing. Service personnel are also given information on Key Worker Living status, which has been extended to enable Service Leavers to access sponsored affordable housing schemes 12 months after discharge, as well as exploring interim solutions such as occupying empty Service Families Accommodation.

For those who have already discharged, housing is a devolved matter and local authorities are responsible for framing their own social housing allocations schemes. A number of measures have been introduced that seek to make it easier for Service personnel leaving the armed forces to obtain social housing including changes to the legislation in England and Wales to ensure that Service personnel are recognised as having a local connection, through residency or employment, when applying for social housing.

Single former Service personnel are able to access the SPACES (Single Personnel Accommodation for Ex Services) project. This aims to assist single Service leavers to secure appropriate accommodation as they leave the armed forces and reduce the likelihood of becoming homelessness. Mike Jackson House in Aldershot has been built on land gifted by the MOD and provides fully furnished sing room accommodation for up to 35 individuals. The latest development is The Beacon on the outskirts of Catterick Garrison, also being built on MOD gifted land, that will provide a further 31 accommodation flats from March 2011.

France: Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the government of France on joint production of drones; and if he will make a statement. [14605]

Peter Luff: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence met M. Herve Morin, his French counterpart, on 3 September 2010 in Paris. They discussed a number of potential opportunities for defence cooperation between the UK and France, including unmanned aerial systems.

I expect that a statement about progress on defence cooperation will be made at the time of the UK/French Summit in November.

Gibraltar

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* one-bedroom, *(b)* two-bedroom, *(c)* three-bedroom and *(d)* four bedroom properties are owned by his Department in Gibraltar. [14626]

Mr Robathan: There are the following number of Service Family Accommodation properties in Gibraltar:

Service family accommodation

	Number
One bedroom	0
Two bedroom	103
Three bedroom	221
Four bedroom	105

HMS Endurance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make a decision on the future of HMS Endurance. [15653]

Nick Harvey: The decision on the future of HMS Endurance is expected to be taken in mid 2011, following the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The Ministry of Defence is currently reviewing options for the optimum provision of the ice patrol capability in the interim period.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of UK military operations in Iraq since 2003; what factors he took into account in making this estimate; and if he will make a statement. [14723]

Dr Fox: The net additional costs of operations in Iraq from 2003 to the end of financial year 2009-10 was £8.2 billion. The estimated cost for this financial year is £179 million as recently published in Ministry of Defence's main estimates. The costs that the MOD would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises for example—are included.

Military Exercises

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions military personnel or officials of his Department were present at weapons testing at each site outside the UK between 2008 and 2010. [14658]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 15 September 2010]*: Information on the number of occasions on which Ministry of Defence Service and civilian personnel have attended weapon testing at overseas locations since 2008 is not held centrally or in the format requested. The effort required to identify all such occasions, across the Department, would incur a disproportionate cost.

Parachute Regiment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of each battalion of the Parachute Regiment *(a)* were and *(b)* were not qualified as parachutists on the latest date for which figures are available. [14808]

Nick Harvey: The number of members of each battalion of the Parachute Regiment who were qualified and not qualified as parachutists as at 1 August 2010 are shown in the following table

Unit	*Qualified*	*Not qualified*
2 Para	485	69
3 Para	493	55

There will always be a number of personnel awaiting qualification given the constant output of newly trained soldiers. The 'not qualified' figure will therefore change regularly as new recruits emerge from basic training.

I am withholding the information for 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Piracy: Deployment

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets are deployed on anti-piracy operations; and in what international missions they are participating. [15828]

Nick Harvey: The UK is providing a sizeable contribution to the military effort, and has a leading role in countering pirate activity off the coast of Somalia. The Royal Navy currently has HMS Northumberland and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Fort Victoria assigned to the Coalition Maritime Force's Counter-Piracy Task Force 151. HMS Montrose is also deployed as part of NATO's Operation Ocean Shield. The Ministry of Defence has also been at the forefront of the European Union mission, Operation Atalanta, since it was introduced in December 2008, providing the Operation Commander and Operation Head Quarters at Northwood.

RAF St Athan

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Gosport (Caroline Dinenage) of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 254W, on RAF St Athan, for what reason the cost of the new facilities at St Athan rose from £11 billion in February 2008 to £14 billion in July 2010; what effect the increased cost has on the assessment of the facilities' value for money; and if he will identify potential alternatives to the facilities. [14480]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 158-59W, to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard). Value for Money is tested through a comparison of the costs of the project compared to a public sector comparator; through life mechanisms for ensuring value for money such as benchmarking and market testing and an assessment of the qualitative benefits of the project. The comparisons are kept up to date and incorporate any changes that have occurred.

Wind Power

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what technical means there are to prevent radar clutter and aircraft obscuration caused by wind turbines. [14597]

Nick Harvey: There are several potential technical mitigation solutions under development. None of these prevent clutter or obscuration but the introduction of new radars, and enhancements to existing radars, with improved processing and clutter management capabilities may serve to reduce the impact of wind farms to manageable levels.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of whether the performance of air defence radars is degraded by wind farms. [14598]

Nick Harvey: To date the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has performed two trials on the T101 Air Defence Radar both of which demonstrated that wind turbines had a significant effect on the ability of the radar to detect targets over and around wind turbine developments.

No direct testing has been performed on the T102 Radar but it is of a sufficiently similar system design to the T101 that it is determined that the radar will be affected by the presence of turbines but not to the same degree as the T101.

No direct testing has been performed on the T92 Radar but the MOD was involved in a trial of a TPS-77 radar in Denmark which showed the Radar to be quite resilient to the degrading effects of turbines. The T92 is of a similar system design and from the same manufacturer and it is determined that the T92 will also be resilient but perhaps not to the same degree because it is older technology.

World War I: War Memorials

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission *(a)* a national inspection of all memorials commemorating the First World War and *(b)* a schedule of renovation of such memorials to be completed by 11 November 2018. [14769]

Mr Robathan: No. Although memorials provide a vital reminder of all those who have served so courageously and deserve to be remembered they are not a responsibility of the Ministry of Defence. The cost of maintenance and protection of a memorial, of which there are a significant number and can range in form from a statue, to a bench or a bus shelter, rests with the owner, the charity or organisation in which ownership is vested.

The Department for Culture Media and Sport sponsor the UK National Inventory of War Memorials. This database of memorials for all conflicts is a joint initiative between the Imperial War Museum and English Heritage, formerly the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England, and assisted by a team of volunteers.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much office space per employee his Department and its predecessor occupied in each year since 1997. [12999]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

Information on how much office space there was per employee is not available in the form requested. The Office currently occupies premises at Dover House, London and Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. Both buildings provide non-standard office accommodation and have listed building status; they provide both office space as well as accommodation that can be doubled up for hosting meetings and events. The office occupies a floor area of 927.5m^2 in Dover House and 694m^2 in Melville Crescent.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9667]

David Mundell: The private office ensures guidance is available to staff on our intranet pages regarding the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to correspondence.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12724]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Government, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system; consequently, the Office does not directly award IT contacts.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessor spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12817]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office records its hospitality expenditure in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money. It keeps no separate record of expenditure on wine.

HEALTH

Audio Equipment: Health Hazards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the manufacturers of personal music players measures to restrict the volume at which music may be played on them. [14770]

Mr Burstow: The responsibility for the regulation of consumer products, such as music players, lies with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Officials from BIS have informed the Department that they do not have any plans to discuss with manufacturers at present.

Cancer

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the correlation between (i) health, (ii) social and (iii) environmental factors and the incidence of localised cancer clusters. [15474]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently funding research on updated investigations of cancer excesses in the vicinity of Seascale and Dounreay.

The Health Protection Agency funds the Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU) at Imperial College. SAHSU carries out studies to examine the associations between health and environmental factors, with an emphasis on the use and interpretation of routine health statistics. The studies take into account socio-economic differences between different areas. SAHSU has carried out a few studies that examined the association between a specific environmental exposure and a local cancer cluster. Details of SAHSU's publications are available on its website at:

www.sahsu.org/publications.php

The independent advisory Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) has published a number of reports on cancer incidence. Details of COMARE's publications are available on its website at:

www.comare.org.uk/comare_docs.htm

Care Homes

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of how best to support the elderly and disabled to remain living in their own homes; whether his Department is working with other departments on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [14148]

Mr Burstow: We acknowledge how important it is for people to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible. Our aim is that people should be helped to live at home for longer through solutions such as home adaptations and community support programmes, telehealth and telecare solutions. We are working with other Government Departments and interested groups such as the national health service, social care, the voluntary sector and individuals locally to commission and deliver these services.

The Government plan to publish their vision for adult social care in autumn 2010, which will set the context for the future of social care, following the publication of the NHS White Paper and the outcome of the spending review in October.

Care Homes and Hospitals: CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements there are for the regulation of CCTV installations in *(a)* NHS and *(b)* private (i) care homes and (ii) hospitals. [15569]

Mr Simon Burns: Use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) installations is regulated by the Data Protection Act 1998. Installation or expansion of a CCTV system must be included in an organisation's Data Protection Registration and notified to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) within 28 days. Failure to register a CCTV system is a criminal offence.

Staff operating CCTV or monitoring images must comply with the CCTV Code of Practice 2008 issued by the ICO and, if monitoring members of the public, must undergo training by Security Industry Authority (SIA) approved bodies and be licensed by the SIA.

All regulation of CCTV installations applies to national health service and private care homes and hospitals.

Childbirth: Health Education

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will take steps to provide more information for pregnant women of the *(a)* advantages and *(b)* disadvantages of home births. [13344]

Anne Milton: Home birth is one of several choices available to women during pregnancy. A midwife discusses these choices with each woman and her partner taking into consideration her specific medical and social history, options for birth and their wishes so that they can make an informed decision about their choice of place of birth. The decision can alter at any stage during the pregnancy as there is continual risk assessment and a women may change her mind about choice of place of birth anytime up until the birth of the baby.

The NHS Choices website contains information regarding the choice of place of birth available to the mother. The National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit is undertaking research called 'Birthplace', which is a National Prospective Cohort Study of Planned Place of Birth. This is due for publication in 2011 and will provide further evidence to assist expectant parents in choosing a place of birth.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the final version of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease National Strategy to be published; whether he has set a timetable for implementation of that Strategy; and whether he has made a decision on his Department's priorities in respect of recommendations on *(a)* asthma and *(b)* Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. [15872]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently reviewing the responses received to its consultation on a strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in England, and awaiting the outcome of the consultation on 'Transparency in outcomes—A framework for the NHS'.

Implementation of the recommendations set out in the consultation document has already commenced with the development of communities of practice at a local level and the initiation of pilots with NHS Improvement. A full timetable of implementation will be published in due course.

Dementia: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley who have been diagnosed with dementia. [15579]

Mr Burstow: The Quality and Outcomes Framework collects data from general practices including the prevalence of dementia. The latest figures are for the financial year 2008-09. Figures are collected for Bexley Care Trust. The number of people in Bexley diagnosed with dementia in 2008-09 was 909.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish details of his Department's expenditure in accordance with the Prime Minister's letter of 31 May 2010; and if he will set the threshold for publication lower than the level of £25,000 so stipulated. [15355]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's expenditure for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010 will be published by 31 October 2010, in accordance with the Prime Minister's letter of 31 May 2010. Subsequent months' expenditure will be published by the 15th working day of the following month.

The threshold for publication will be £25,000 including VAT, where applicable.

Doctors: Manpower

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital doctors he expects to be employed by the NHS in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [15613]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper makes it clear that accountability for decisions affecting work force supply and demand needs to sit in the right place, with employers having greater autonomy for planning and developing the work force alongside greater professional ownership of the quality of education and training.

The number of doctors employed by the national health service in each of the next five years will depend on local plans, and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

General Medical Council

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department monitors the effectiveness of the General Medical Council in supervising the conduct and practice of medical practitioners. [15369]

Anne Milton: The Department does not monitor the effectiveness of the General Medical Council. It is the responsibility of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) to oversee the work of the nine regulatory bodies that set standards for training and conduct of health professionals. CHRE undertakes an annual performance review of these bodies and publishes copies of its subsequent report on its website at:

www.chre.org.uk

CHRE is required to make an annual report on the exercise of its functions. This is laid before Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust: Clinical Trials

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many complaints about the running of clinical trials at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital have been received from staff employed to manage these trials; and how much it has cost to investigate such complaints; [15282]

(2) whether he has had discussions with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on the conduct of clinical trials at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital; [15283]

(3) whether the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has *(a)* investigated clinical trials in the Rheumatology Department at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital and *(b)* been requested to investigate those trials. [15284]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has not received any complaints about the running of clinical trials at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital.

The Secretary of State for Health has not had any discussions with the MHRA about the conduct of clinical trials at this hospital.

The MHRA has not conducted any Good Clinical Practice (GCP) inspections of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital. The hospital is part of a group of five trusts running the same quality system and they have not been inspected yet; others in this group have. A serious breach notification was received in January 2009 from a sponsor of a trial running there. The sponsor and the trust dealt with this adequately and the case was closed in March 2009. No request has been made by the sponsor or the trust to investigate the conduct of the trial or the conduct of the investigator.

Health Services: Children

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the recommendations of the review of NHS children's services have been presented to the NHS Chief Executive; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the review. [15424]

Anne Milton: The report 'Getting it right for children and young people: Overcoming cultural barriers in the NHS so as to meet their need' was published on 16 September 2010 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Infant Foods

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of provision of infant formula milk for new-born babies in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will initiate an investigation into the amount of waste arising through provision of infant formula milk in pre-mixed 100 ml bottles in hospitals. [15153]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not held centrally.

National health service hospitals, through local agreements with their suppliers, determine the procurement arrangements. All recycling of waste materials are determined at a local level.

Hospitals: Parking

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* end or *(b)* reduce hospital car parking charges for (i) cancer patients and (ii) disabled people travelling regularly to hospital for treatment. [15870]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have now published their response to the recent consultation on national health service car parking, which makes clear that NHS organisations are responsible for their own policy, taking into account local operational circumstances and local community interests. It also makes clear that local policies should include fair concessions for all patients whose healthcare needs require extended or frequent access to hospital. This will include, but is not restricted to, disabled patients or those undergoing cancer treatment. Hospitals must also comply with their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to meet the needs of disabled visitors.

A copy of the Government's response NHS car parking: response to consultation has already been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inmates discharged from prison are in contact with mental health services following their discharge; and how many had such contact in the first *(a)* week and *(b)* month following the date of discharge in the latest period for which figures are available. [15633]

Mr Burstow: This information is not collected centrally.

Mental Illness: Prisoners

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the proportion of people with mental illnesses who are in prison. [14494]

Mr Burstow: The Department is leading cross-Government work to further develop diversion services in police stations and courts. These services identify people with mental health problems at an early stage in the criminal justice process allowing non-custodial approaches to be considered where it is appropriate to do so. The Department is also developing a new cross-Government mental health strategy which is to clarify the outcomes expected for people with mental health problems when they come into contact with the criminal justice system

With the agreement of the Secretary of State for Justice, prisoners with mental disorder who meet the criteria for detention under the Mental Health Act are transferred to secure mental health services to receive in-patient treatment.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to NHS trusts on the acceptance of medical qualifications obtained in *(a)* other EU and *(b)* non-EU countries as equivalents of UK-obtained qualifications in the appointment of medical staff; and if he will make a statement. [14895]

Anne Milton: The acceptance of medical qualifications obtained in other countries of the European economic area (EEA) falls under EU Directive 2005/36/EC which consolidates the rules regulating the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. Under that directive, medical qualifications obtained by nationals of other EEA countries receive mutual recognition in the United Kingdom. It entitles EEA doctors to registration with the General Medical Council and a licence to practise medicine in the UK.

The assessment of medical qualifications obtained by non-EEA nationals is the responsibility of the General Medical Council. Doctors trained outside the EEA must satisfy the GMC that:

they hold an acceptable overseas qualification;

they posses the knowledge, skills and experience necessary for practicing as a fully registered medical practitioner in the UK;

their fitness to practise is not impaired; and

that they have the necessary knowledge of English.

NHS: Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on staffing levels in the NHS of the implementation of the proposed targets contained in the White Paper "Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". [15471]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run, including the abolition of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (from 2012-13). The precise details of the transition to the new system will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail. The Department is in the process of consulting on how the new organisations should be designed, and once the results of this are known we will publish the costs and implications of the new system in an impact assessment.

NHS: Political Activities

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to NHS bodies on the funding of events at conferences held by political parties. [15568]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued any guidance to national health service bodies on the funding of events at conferences held by political parties.

Obesity

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures were carried out in NHS facilities on people with a body mass index of *(a)* 40 or more and *(b)* 36 or more with a co-morbidity of each (i) sex and (ii) ethnic origin in each year since 2004. [13830]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides a count of finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of obesity and any procedure or intervention, broken down by sex, and ethnic group for 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		Finished consultant episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis[2] of obesity where there was any main operating procedure or intervention[3]				
Ethnic group[4]	*Sex*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Total		7,335	4,345	3,052	1,453	1,028
Asian and Asian British	Female	112	61	53	24	12
	Male	69	60	30	9	4
Black and Black British	Female	203	119	72	37	21
	Male	32	23	10	3	3
	Unknown/unspecified	—	—	1	—	—
Chinese or other	Female	50	51	23	11	14
	Male	28	19	8	4	2
White	Female	4,054	2,037	1,456	704	532
	Male	1,368	760	466	203	131
	Unknown/unspecified	—	—	1	3	—
Mixed	Female	57	51	24	8	16
	Male	15	8	9	4	—

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		Finished consultant episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis[2] of obesity where there was any main operating procedure or intervention[3]				
Ethnic group[4]	*Sex*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Not known	Female	174	264	220	29	26
	Male	60	95	58	10	14
	Unknown/Unspecified	—	—	6	28	4
Not stated	Female	835	611	478	292	196
	Male	277	186	137	83	53
	Unknown/unspecified	1	—	—	1	—

Notes:

The data are not a count of people, as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

[1] *Finished consultant episode (FCE)* A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] *Primary diagnosis* The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. The ICD-10 code what used to define obesity is E66—Obesity.

[3] *Number of episodes with a (named) main procedure* The number of episodes where the procedure was recorded in the main procedure field in a HES record. Note that more procedures are carried out than the number of episodes with a main procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode. The number of episodes with any main procedure include '&' (not known), and for OPCS 4.3/4.4/4.5 (from 2006-07) codes A01-X97, or for OPCS 4.2 (prior to 2006-07) codes A01-X59.

[4] *Ethnicity* Ethnicity data may not be good enough to allow accurate analysis, including analysis of ethnic differences. Ethnic group was collected from 1 April 1995 to 31 March 2002 and ethnic category, using the definitions in the 2001 census, from 1 April 2002. Patients are asked to select their category from a standard list, and some decline to do this. Data may therefore be incomplete and of poor quality.

[5] *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data. *Data quality* HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. *Bariatric surgery OPCS codes Gastric bypass codes* OPCS 4.2 G27.1 Total gastrectomy and excision of surrounding tissue G27.2 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum G27.3 Total gastrectomy and interposition of jejunum G27.4 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to transposed jejunum G27.5 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to jejunum nec G27.8 Other specified total excision of stomach G27.9 Unspecified total excision of stomach G28.1 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to duodenum G28.2 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum G28.3 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec G28.8 Other specified partial excision of stomach G28.9 Unspecified partial excision of stomach G31.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum G31.2 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to duodenum G31.3 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to duodenum G31.4 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to duodenum G31.8 Other specified connection of stomach to duodenum G31.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to duodenum G31.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to duodenum. G32.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum G32.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum G32.3 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum G32.8 Other specified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum G32.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum G32.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum G33.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec G33.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec G33.3 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec G33.8 Other specified other connection of stomach to jejunum G33.9 Unspecified other connection of stomach to jejunum G33.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec. From April 2006 additional OPCS-4.3 codes were added: G28.4 Sleeve gastrectomy and duodenal switch G28.5 Sleeve gastrectomy NEC G31.5 Closure of connection of stomach to duodenum G31.6 Attention to connection of stomach to duodenum G32.4 Closure of connection of stomach to transposed jejunum G32.5 Attention to connection of stomach to transposed jejunum G33.5 Closure of connection of stomach to jejunum NEC G33.6 Attention to connection of stomach to jejunum G71.6 Duodenal switch. *Gastric band* Gastric band procedures may include the insertion, removal or adjustment of the gastric band. OPCS-4.2 There were no specific codes for gastric banding procedures in OPCS-4.2. OPCS-4.3 and OPCS-4.4. *Insertion of a gastric band* G30.3 Partitioning of stomach using band. *Removal of a gastric band* G38.7 Removal of gastric band. *Adjustment of gastric band* G30.8 Other specified plastic operations on stomach Y03.6 Adjustment to prosthesis in organ noc.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

School Milk

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers formulated plans to end the nursery milk scheme; [13507]

(2) whether *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* No. 10 Downing street were informed of his Department's proposals to end the nursery milk scheme before the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health wrote to the devolved administrations on the subject; [13508]

(3) whether the letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health to the devolved administrations on proposals to end the nursery milk scheme was copied to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in (i) HM Treasury and (ii) 10 Downing street (A) prior to and (B) at the time of issue; [13591]

(4) what the cost to the public purse of the nursery milk scheme was in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of its cost in each of the next five years. [13592]

Anne Milton: It is customary for Ministers, officials and special advisers to work together on the development of all policies as appropriate.

Letters seeking views on a draft proposal were sent by myself to my right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister, the Home Affairs committee and the devolved Administrations at the same time.

The following table shows the cost of the scheme in the last five financial years.

Financial year	*Cost £ (million) GB total*
2005-06[1]	22.8
2006-07[1]	23.3
2007-08[1]	27.1
2008-09[1]	31.2
2009-10[1]	42.5
2010-11[2]	52.8

[1] Actual

[2] Estimated

Social Services: Finance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 827W, on direct payments, what funding his Department will provide to local authorities for the provision of social care in 2010-11. [15815]

Mr Burstow: In 2010-11, the Department has allocated £1.3 billion in revenue grants and £0.1 billion of capital grants to local authorities to support the provision of social care.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax: Private Rented Housing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to make entrepreneurs' relief from capital gains tax available to those who rent out property in the private rented sector. [10589]

Mr Gauke: The Government believe that the current definition of entrepreneurs' relief accurately targets entrepreneurial business activity, offering a reduced capital gains tax rate to the vast majority of small business owners and material investors. Expanding the relief to cover those renting out property would not meet the policy objective.

Child Tax Credit

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in Angus constituency were overpaid child tax credit between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10525]

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Dundee East constituency were overpaid child tax credit between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10532]

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency were overpaid child tax credit between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10521]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Moray constituency were overpaid child tax credit between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10544]

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families resident in Banff and Buchan constituency were overpaid child tax credit between 2007-08 and 2009-10; and what the average overpayment was. [10538]

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families were overpaid child tax credit in Perth and North Perthshire constituency in each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the average level of overpayment to such families and the average amount to be repaid. [10423]

Mr Gauke: The number of tax credits awards, and the amounts that were overpaid by each parliamentary constituency, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis". The latest figures available are for 2008-09 and can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The average level of overpayment is also the average amount due to be repaid.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with faith leaders on the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. [10619]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 440W, on pregnant women: grants, what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of providing information on the number of Health in Pregnancy grants made in Kingston upon Hull North constituency in 2009-10. [10344]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimates that regional breakdowns of expenditure on the Health in Pregnancy Grant would take one full-time equivalent staff member around two weeks to compile the necessary data and complete the full quality assurance processes.

State Retirement Pensions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism he plans to determine changes to the basic state pension in (a) 2012, (b) 2013 and (c) 2014. [14772]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 255-57W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

North Africa: Food

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government is taking to alleviate food shortages in the Sahel region of North Africa; and if he will make a statement. [6732]

Mr O'Brien: An estimated 4.6 million people across Niger, Chad and Mali are facing severe food shortages following two years of bad harvests and poor rains. A further 5 million people are 'moderately' food insecure and may become more vulnerable without additional support.

The UK Government are supporting United Nations agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations in the Sahel region to provide food aid to 160,000 people for three months; treat 27,500 children with severe acute malnutrition and 50,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition; provide cash for work or direct payments to 20,000 households; and provide seeds to more than 81,000 households.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [2078]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains fragile. In terms of levels of malnutrition, disease and access to primary healthcare, the humanitarian situation is stable but remains a constant cause of concern. Food insecurity is particular serious, with 75% of Gazans (approximately 1,045,000 people) dependent on food aid. We estimate that the erosion of skills, infrastructure and institutions in the health and water sectors is likely to lead to further deterioration in the humanitarian situation over time.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men in each age group not in receipt of carer's allowance have an underlying entitlement to the allowance. [15845]

Maria Miller: The requested information is as follows:

People with entitlement to carer's allowance in Great Britain and abroad not in receipt of payment, by age group: February 2010

Age of claimant	*Male*	*Female*
Total	182,530	262,150
Unknown age	10	—
Under 18	40	70
18-24	620	1,080
25-29	630	1,670
30-34	830	2,500
35-39	1,490	4,150
40-44	2,300	5,600
45-49	3,140	6,080
50-54	3,810	6,050
55-59	4,800	7,040
60-64	7,640	44,520
65 and over	157,220	183,370

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of carers in receipt of carer's allowance who are caring for someone who is receiving the middle rate care component of disability living allowance. [15913]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available.

The National Statistics datasets on carer's allowance claimants do not contain any information about the identity or characteristics of the person being cared for. Similarly, the datasets on disability living allowance (DLA) claimants do not contain any information about the identity or characteristics of any person caring for the DLA claimant. It would be possible to use additional information to link the two datasets, but to develop an understanding of the additional data source, develop the methodology and carry out and quality assure the results would incur disproportionate costs.

Child Support Agency

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to reorganise the work of the Child Support Agency to transfer legacy cases to new child support systems. [14903]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there are plans to reorganise the work of the Child Support Agency to transfer legacy cases to new child support systems. [14903]

The problems encountered by the Child Support Agency following the launch of the Reforms in 2003 resulted in a decision to defer the bulk transfer of cases from the old (launched in 1993) scheme, to the current (launched in 2003) child support scheme. In the meantime, cases were only migrated from the old computer system to the new computer system where they had a link with a case on the new system that made this necessary.

This decision was kept under review and in February 2006 the previous Government asked Sir David Henshaw to review the entire system of child maintenance. His subsequent report led to the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, which makes provision for a new system of child maintenance known as the "future scheme".

The Commission continues to develop plans for a future scheme that is intended to replace both the existing schemes. As with all government departments, the Commission is undertaking a review of its plans as part of the current spending review and in line the new government's priorities.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's Chief Scientific Officer since 6 May 2010. [15438]

Chris Grayling: The Department's chief scientific adviser meets regularly Ministers in the Department to discuss various aspects of policy; most notably incapacity benefit reform, health and safety, health conditions and matters related to the wider health, work and wellbeing agenda including mental health and employment.

Departmental Conferences

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* his Department's stand, *(b)* its (i) Corporate IT, (ii) Departmental Security, (iii) Occupational and Health Psychology Services, (iv) Change Programme and (v) Shared Services divisions stands, *(c)* the Office for Disability Issues stand, (d) the Independent Living Fund stand and *(e)* the Tell Us Once Programme stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12955]

Chris Grayling: The cost of these stands at Civil Service Live 2010 are as follows and were committed to by the previous Administration.

		Organisation	*Cost including VAT (£)*
(a)	(i)	Corporate IT	13,242.38
	(ii)	Departmental Security	12,757.93
	(iii)	Occupational & Health Psychology Service	12,549.85
	(iv)	Change Programme	13,242.38
	(v)	Shared Services	13,685.60
		My Civil Service Pension—Cabinet Office, Shared Services	22,297.33
(b)		Office for Disability Issues	27,358.94
(c)		Independent Living Fund	4,555
(d)		Tell Us Once Campaign	11,530.55

Note:
The purpose of Civil Service Live was to provide a unique opportunity for civil servants across Government to be brought up to speed on important Government thinking, to be made aware of new ideas and initiatives, and to link up and work together more effectively and efficiently.

Departmental Databases

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments have been made to Capita under his Department's Filestores contract in each year of the contract. [15315]

Chris Grayling: Payments made by the Department for Work and Pensions to Capita Group plc under its contract for record storage in each year of the contract from 1 July 2004 to 31 March 2010 are presented in the following table.

	Spend (£)
2005-06	10,627.665
2006-07	15,359,119
2007-08	22,668,849
2008-09	21,148,200
2009-10	18,729,424

In relation to planned expenditure for 2010-11, all areas of DWP intend to reduce third party costs against the 2009-10 baseline, either through contract renegotiation, demand management or collaboration with other departments to generate economies of scale.

Disability Living Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are in receipt of the (i) middle and (ii) higher rate care component of disability living allowance. [15843]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

DLA in payment by rate of care component, Great Britain: February 2010

	All	*Female*	*Male*
Higher rate care component	726,600	372,300	354,300
Middle rate care component	1,043,510	486,930	556,580

Notes:
1. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children are in receipt of each component of disability living allowance at each rate. [15844]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Disability living allowance in payment for children, by type of component, Great Britain: February 2010

	All children aged under 16 years
All mobility award type	325,690
Higher rate	61,920
Lower rate	163,750
Nil rate	100,010
All care award type	325,690
Higher rate	119,250
Middle rate	180,730
Lower rate	19,780
Nil rate	5,920

Notes:
1. Figures show the number of children aged under 16 years in receipt of an allowance, and exclude entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. "Nil rate" indicates that this particular component is not in payment but the other component is in payment.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. Claimants may receive both the care and mobility components.
6. Data is published at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Employment Schemes: Down's Syndrome

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on assisting adults with Down's syndrome to find work. [14907]

Maria Miller: The Government are committed to ensuring disabled people, including adults with Down's syndrome, are given the right support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

As part of this commitment we will introduce a new programme, Work Choice, from 25 October 2010. Work Choice will replace the existing fragmented specialist disability provision and will help into work disabled people who face the most complex and long-term barriers to employment.

Access to Work provides financial help towards the extra costs faced by people with a disability, where this goes beyond what would be reasonable for an employer to meet. Access to Work supported 37,210 disable people during 2009-10.

The Coalition Agreement announced:

> 'We will reform Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need'.

We are developing plans for delivering this commitment and further details will be announced in due course.

We are working to ensure through Work Choice and the Work Programme, the widest possible range of help to return to work is available to disabled people and those who support and advise them. The introduction of the Work Programme will result in new arrangements for supporting people on out of work benefits. We aim to have the Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. It will support a wide range of customers, including those who may previously have been receiving incapacity benefits for many years.

Funeral Payments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time for funeral payments was *(a)* in Bristol and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [14090]

Steve Webb: Funeral payments are processed in Bristol for the whole of the south-west region. For the financial year-to-date (April to August 2010), the average processing time for funeral payments was 17.6 working days for the south-west region and 16.4 working days for Great Britain.

Note:

The processing time for an individual funeral payment claim is measured in whole working days from the date the claim is received until the date the decision is made. The minimum processing time recorded for an individual funeral payment claim is one working day, even if the claim is cleared immediately.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Jobcentre Plus staff on the Future Jobs Fund. [14885]

Chris Grayling: The Minister for Employment has regular meetings with the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus about all aspects of Jobcentre Plus performance.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of continuing the Future Jobs Fund. [15224]

Chris Grayling: Future Jobs Fund expenditure in 2009-10 was £72 million and the estimated spend for 2010-11 is £420 million. Expenditure decisions for 2011-12 are subject to the spending review. Significant savings are expected from the £1 billion the previous Government had committed to the delivery of the Future Jobs Fund. Around 100,000 jobs will be created.

Future Jobs Fund: West Lothian

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations with registered business premises in the West Lothian Council area have been approved to provide employment under the Future Jobs Fund. [15928]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold records of all of the organisations that are providing employment through the Future Jobs Fund. Details of lead accountable bodies who have been successful in receiving FJF awards are available here:

http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/index.asp

Housing Benefit

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit claim in each local authority by occupants of *(a)* local authority housing, *(b)* former local authority housing, *(c)* registered social landlord housing and *(d)* private sector tenanted housing was in the latest period for which figures are available. [13730]

Steve Webb: A copy of the available information has been placed in the Library.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on rental rates for properties *(a)* between the 30th and 50th and *(b)* below the 30th percentile of broad market rental area (BMRA) in (i) Birmingham and (ii) England of proposals to reduce the maximum local housing allowance to the rent of the 30th percentile of BMRA; [14239]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on areas with *(a)* high levels of unemployment and *(b)* levels of unemployment comparable with the national average of proposals to reduce the maximum local housing allowance to the rent of the 30th percentile of broad rental market areas. [14207]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July, which includes breakdowns at the local authority level and an assessment of the impact on availability of accommodation. A copy of the document has been placed in the library.

The Department will publish a full impact assessment for the 2011 -12 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements when it lays the relevant legislation in November 2010.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value was of the discretionary housing payments allocated to each local authority in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11; and what estimate he made of how much of that allocation each local authority spent in each such year. [15614]

Steve Webb: For each of the three years, the Department for Work and Pensions has made available £20 million to contribute towards discretionary housing payments.

A table has been placed in the Library showing each local authority's allocation for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, and their reported expenditure for 2008-09 and 2009-10. The table also shows each authority's initial estimated expenditure for 2010-11.

The following table is a summary of the total amounts allocated each year, against expenditure.

£

	DWP allocation	*DWP allocation spent by the local authorities*	*Amount of additional expenditure spent by the local authorities*
2008-09	20,000,000	18,708,246	2,385,851
2009-10	20,000,000	18,942,628	2,856,076
2010-11	20,000,000	[1]19,516,357	[1]3,593,297

[1]Estimated.

Housing Benefit: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are employed and in receipt of housing benefit in the area most closely corresponding to East Lothian constituency for which figures are available. [13542]

Steve Webb: Information is only available for those housing benefit recipients who are not on a passported benefit, namely income support, pension credit guarantee credit, income-based job-seeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance.

The information for East Lothian local authority is as follows:

	All HB recipients	*Of which, non-passported*	*Of which, non-passported and in employment*
Great Britain	4,751,530	1,490,530	650,550
East Lothian	6,780	2,250	710

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract, May 2010.

Housing Benefit: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of housing benefit in Gateshead borough; and how many are *(a)* not of working age, *(b)* in work and *(c)* not in work. [15646]

Steve Webb: Complete information is not available.

Statistics are only available for those housing benefit recipients in employment who are not on a passported benefit. The available information is shown in the tables provided.

Housing benefit recipients by elderly/working age—Gateshead local authority, May 2010

Gateshead LA	*Number*
All HB recipients	21,680
All aged under 65	14,180
All aged 65 and over	7,500

Housing benefit recipients by employment status—Gateshead local authority, May 2010

Gateshead LA	*Number*
All HB recipients	21,680
Non passported in employment	2,010
Non passported not in employment	4,280
All passported	15,390

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and May 2010 is the most recent available.
5. Data from SHBE incorporates the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.
6. Figures are at 13 May 2010.
7. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
8. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.
9. People claiming housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award.
10. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:
(a) the recipient if they are single, or
(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Housing Benefit: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of residents in Livingston constituency in receipt of local housing allowance in 2010-11 whose entitlement will be reduced from April 2011; [15929]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in monetary value of entitlement of local housing allowance among residents of the Livingston constituency in receipt of local housing allowance in 2010-11 and 2011-12. [15930]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at constituency level.

The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July 2010, which includes analysis at the local authority and regional level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Local Housing Allowance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on housing benefit, what estimate has been made of the effect of the Government's proposed changes to housing benefit and local housing allowance on the number of people living in poverty. [13885]

Steve Webb: The package of measures announced in the June Budget and being introduced for the Local Housing Allowance in 2011-12, including the removal of the £15 excess planned by the previous administration, will achieve savings of around £1 billion by 2015-16. The other changes to Housing Benefit announced in the June Budget are estimated to save a further £1.1 billion in 2015-16. Overall, this represents a reduction of 9% in the total 2015-16 expenditure on Housing Benefit.

The reduction in Housing Benefit expenditure will reduce the amount customers receive from the Government towards their rent. However, the purpose of reform is to influence rent levels and housing choices, which is likely at least in part to mitigate the impact of these measures on poverty.

The impact of the Housing Benefit measures should also not be considered in isolation of the wider package of measures that have been announced; importantly the extra money distributed to families with children through the tax credit system.

Most Housing Benefit customers will be affected by the changes announced to Housing Benefit in the June Budget so there is no disproportionate impact on any particular working age family type within Housing Benefit. However, the changes have a larger impact on very large families and also on households of all sizes in inner London.

Discretionary Housing Payments are currently £20 million a year, and will increase to £30 million in 2011-12 and then to £60 million a year from 2012-13. In discussion with local authorities, these resources will give extra support to areas where the impacts are greatest. It will give authorities more flexibility to provide additional support where it is most needed.

Housing Benefit: Reform

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to meet the Local Government Association to discuss proposed changes to housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [15327]

Steve Webb: The Department has consulted formally with the Local Government Association, and the other associations which represent local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales, on the first set of draft regulations to bring in the proposed changes to housing benefit. Additionally, officials meet regularly with the local authority associations to discuss policy changes and the impact on local authority operations.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals for a transition period for implementation of the proposed changes to housing benefit in respect of local authority areas with the highest *(a)* average rents and *(b)* proportion of housing stock in the private rented sector. [15328]

Steve Webb: We have no plans to introduce transitional protection for households affected by the proposed changes to housing benefit as we have provided a substantial increase in the discretionary housing payments budget which will allow local authorities to give additional support where it is most needed. We have referred the proposed legislation to the Social Security Advisory Committee and will respond to its report in due course.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households that receive housing benefit in social rented housing are classed as under-occupied in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow East constituency. [14303]

Steve Webb: Figures for under occupation among housing benefit recipients in the social rented sector can be estimated from the DWP's Family Resources Survey. This survey collects detailed information from around 25,000 households each year.

The Family Resources Survey is sufficiently robust to allow figures to be broken down for Scotland, Wales and the English regions. In Scotland it is estimated that there are approximately 100,000 households in the social rented sector, in receipt of housing benefit, where the accommodation is under occupied.

Information about the size of accommodation occupied by housing benefit recipients in the social rented sector is not currently collected for housing benefit purposes at a local level. As a result it is not possible to provide comparable figures for Glasgow or Glasgow East constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. Data for 2008-09 was collected between April 2008 and March 2009.
3. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.
4. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government Office Region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
5. Under occupation is measured in accordance with the criteria that apply to housing benefit claimants in receipt of local housing allowance in the private rented sector. There are also alternative measures of under occupation which are widely used, such as the 'bedroom standard'.

Incapacity Benefit: Spinal Injuries

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants qualified as a result of spinal or back-related conditions or injuries in the most recent period for which figures are available. [14264]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table.

The number and proportion of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with injuries of the back as their main disabling condition—February 2010

	Caseload	*Proportion (%)*
All	2,176,530	—

The number and proportion of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with injuries of the back as their main disabling condition—February 2010

	Caseload	Proportion (%)
Other deforming dorsopathies	1,710	0.1
Dorsalgia	175,810	8.1
Ankylosing spondylitis	2,950	0.1
Other inflammatory spondylopathies	5,120	0.2
Sprain/strain	900	0.0
Spondylosis	16,790	0.8
Cervical disc disorders	510	0.0
Other invertebral disc disorders	16,500	0.8
Other dorsopathies not elsewhere classified	330	0.0
Dislocation sprain and strain of joints and ligaments at neck level	1,160	0.1
Dislocation, sprain and strain of joints and Ligaments of lumbar spine and pelvis	1,120	0.1
Other injuries of spine and trunk	35,310	1.6
Tear/wrench of muscles	120	0.0

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for IB/SDA, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called the Personal Capability Assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on IB/SDA claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. So for example, the decision for a customer claiming IB on grounds of injuries of the spine and trunk would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the Personal Capability Assessment.

3. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Independent Living Fund

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 84-85W, on the Independent Living Fund, whether he plans to re-open the Independent Living Fund to new applicants. [15785]

Maria Miller: As set out in my statement to the House on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 77-78WS, we will consider the long-term future of the Independent Living Fund as part of the forthcoming spending review, working with the trustees of the fund, disabled people's organisations, and other key stakeholders including local authorities.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to assist people in areas where the local Jobcentre Plus centre has been closed to use alternative centres. [15126]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps will be taken to assist people in areas where the local Jobcentre Plus centre has been closed to use alternative centres. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our approach to closure of a customer-facing Jobcentre takes into account a range of issues, including the impact on customer service and whether the work and staff can be relocated. When we are considering changes in our service delivery planning of this nature, we consult with our customers, partner organisations, Trade Unions, staff and local Members of Parliament.

The vast majority of our services, in common with most large, modern organisations, are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access to job search, we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time, and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone, with some taken on-line.

In addition we aim to make our services more accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. Typically, such services can be delivered in partnership with Children's Centres, or on Local Authority premises, or in conjunction with one of our Welfare to Work Providers.

Pensioners: Cost of Living

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria his Department used to assess the suitability of the consumer price index as a measure of the changes in the cost of living of pensioners. [15127]

Steve Webb: The Department examined the key features of the Consumer Prices Index, including the population coverage, basket of goods and methodology employed in assembling the index.

Poverty: Disability

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the level of disability poverty. [15550]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the level of disability poverty are published in the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) disability equality indicators sourced from the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The latest available data covering 2008-09, show that 3.9 million individuals who live in families with at least one disabled member live in relative income poverty (defined as living in a household with incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary, equivalised, median household income, before housing costs). This equates to 23 per cent. of all individuals, compared to 16 per cent. of individuals in families with no disabled member.

The data also show that there are 4.4 million individuals who live in families with at least one disabled member who live in relative low income, on an after housing costs basis. This equates to 26 per cent. of all individuals, compared to 21 per cent. of individuals in families with no disabled member.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the households below average income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty.

3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or

"equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.

6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, and percentages to the nearest whole percentage point.

7. HBAI presents analyses of disposable income on two bases: before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC). This is principally to take into account variations in housing costs that themselves do not correspond to comparable variations in the quality of housing.

8. In HBAI an individual is defined as disabled if they report having any long-standing illness, disability or impairment that leads to a substantial difficulty with one or more areas of their life. Everyone classified as disabled under this definition would also be classified as disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). However, some individuals classified as disabled under the DDA would not be captured by this definition.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many first-tier appeals against benefit decisions were not attended by a representative of his Department between April 2009 and March 2010; and of those how many appeals were granted. [13500]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available in respect of most social security benefits. Such information as is available is as follows.

The data that are available refer to claims for state pensions. Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010, 1,475 state pension appeals were not attended by a representative of this Department. Of those 201 were found in the appellants' favour.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals his Department has made against appeals upheld against its benefits decisions in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse of such appeals was. [13502]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions has taken 588 appeals to the upper tribunal (previously social security commissioners) from the first-tier tribunal (previously appeal tribunal) in cases where the first-tier tribunal found for the claimant against the Department in the last five years ending 31 March 2010.

The cost to the Department for Work and Pensions over five years of taking these appeals was approximately £400,000.

The figures for each of the last five years is as follows:

	Appeals to upper tribunal by Secretary of State	*Cost to DWP of each appeal (£)*	*Total cost to DWP for all appeals (£)*
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	85	640	54,400
1 April 2006-31 March 2007	101	665	67,165
1 April 2007-31 March 2008	167	671	112,057
1 April 2008-31 March 2009	125	693	86,625
1 April 2009-31 March 2010	110	715	78,650

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Gateshead borough are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [15648]

Maria Miller: The answer is provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants, and disability living allowance claimants: February 2010.

Local Authority	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Gateshead	2,380	9,660	13,340

Notes:

1. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Social Security Benefits: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(b)* Medway were in receipt of (i) disability living allowance, (ii) employment and support allowance and (iii) incapacity benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [15097]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and disability living allowance claimants: February 2010

	ESA	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency	790	2,910	4,600
Medway local authority	2,020	7,680	12,560

Notes:

1. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to bring forward proposals to involve NHS healthcare professionals in place of external contractors in the benefit eligibility assessment process. [15099]

Chris Grayling: The Government are not currently considering any proposals to involve NHS health care professionals in place of external contractors, when assessing entitlement to benefits.

Capability for work is assessed by independent health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare, who provide advice to the Department's decision-makers. When making a decision on entitlement to employment and support allowance or incapacity benefit a decision-maker must take account of all the available information, including any evidence from an individual's GP or other professionals.

Social Security Benefits: Mental Illness

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations his Department contracts to provide mental health assessments to determine benefit claimants' fitness to work; what steps his Department takes to determine the level of expertise of practitioners within such organisations to make such assessments; and if he will make a statement. [14894]

Chris Grayling: The work capability assessment, which assesses capability for work in order to determine entitlement to employment and support allowance, and the personal capability assessment, which assesses capability for work in order to determine entitlement to incapacity benefit, are carried out on behalf of the Department by health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare.

Health care professionals are required to have a minimum of three years post-registration experience and this should include broad based medical practice in roles that have clear relevance to a career in disability assessment medicine. Only in exceptional cases and solely at the discretion of the DWP Chief Medical Adviser, may that requirement for a minimum of three years post registration experience be waived.

The DWP Chief Medical Adviser on behalf of the Secretary of State must approve all health care professionals before they can carry out assessments. Approval is only granted when a health care professional has undergone the required training, successfully achieved the required level of competence and demonstrated that their work meets the required quality standards.

All health care professionals receive training in mental health issues as part of their induction training and are required to follow evidence based protocols relating to mental health conditions. In addition, all health care professionals are required to engage in a programme of continuing medical education which includes modules on mental health issues. All training material is developed in conjunction with and agreed by the Chief Medical Adviser.

The work of all health care professionals is subject to random quality audit by a system agreed with the DWP and which is conducted by experienced medical auditors within Atos Healthcare. The quality of Atos Healthcare's audit is validated by senior medical auditors from Atos Healthcare and doctors working for the Chief Medical Adviser to the DWP.

The work capability assessment was designed and subsequently reviewed in close consultation with organisation representing people with mental health conditions. We have now commissioned the first of five independent reviews of the WCA and are pleased that Paul Farmer, CEO of Mind, is sitting on the review's Scrutiny Group, which will provide advice and challenge to the lead reviewer.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the effect on the Scottish economy of planned reductions in incapacity benefit and disability living allowance payments to people in Scotland. [14157]

Chris Grayling: We have not carried out specific analysis looking at the effect of reforms to the benefit system on the Scottish economy.

An impact assessment was carried out for the Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) Regulations 2010. These regulations provide for the reassessment of incapacity benefit customers. A copy of this impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/em/uksiem_20100875_en.pdf

Winter Fuel Payments

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 60 to 65, *(b)* 65 to 70 and *(c)* 70 to 80 years old were paid the winter fuel allowance in (i) England, (ii) Dudley Borough and (iii) Dudley North constituency in each year since 2005. [15130]

Steve Webb: The information is in the tables.

Winter fuel allowance

Winter	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*20060-07*	*2005/06*	*2004-05*
Arealage					
England	10,593,180	10,345,380	10,028,780	9,864,190	9,761,980
60-64	3,279,630	3,147,940	3,147,940	2,695,140	2,663,660
65-69	2,588,350	2,527,770	2,527,770	2,517,720	2,512,540
70-79	4,065,270	4,006,620	4,006,620	3,934,020	3,919,080
80 and over	2,475,780	2,428,200	2,428,200	2,344,480	2,314,890
Unknown	12,110	12,030	11,830	11,622	9,010

Winter fuel allowance

Winter	*2008-09*	*200-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Arealage					
Dudley local authority	69,270	67,950	66,170	65,250	64,600
60 to 64	18,040	18,000	17,040	16,330	16,210
65 to 69	15,100	14,650	14,580	14,760	14,820
70 to 79	23,210	22,930	22,480	22,120	21,880
80 and over	12,830	12,310	11,990	11,750	11,590
unknown	80	70	70	300	110

Winter fuel allowance

Winter	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Arealage					
Dudley North parliamentary constituency (May 2005 boundary)	19,690	19,490	19,220	19,180	19,170
60 to 64	4,610	4,660	4,500	4,440	4,530
65 to 69	4,320	4,290	4,400	4,570	4,650
70 to 79	7,180	7,100	6,990	6,860	6,760
80 and over	3,550	3,410	3,310	3,230	3,200
unknown	30	20	20	80	30

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore totals may not sum.
2. Local authorities and parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2005.
4. "Unknown" are mainly cases where the payment is actually paid to the IS/JSA claimant whose partner will be aged 60 and over. In these cases the claimants age will be under 60.
5. Age groups provided are standard groupings.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data.

Winter Fuel Payments: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former UK residents in each foreign country were in receipt of winter fuel payments in each month of the last five years. [15050]

Steve Webb: Winter Fuel Payments are annual lump-sum payments with the majority paid in November and December each year. European Community law means that some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people when they move to another country within the European economic area. Winter Fuel Payments are only paid to former UK residents living in the European economic area if they qualified for payment before leaving the UK. The number of Winter Fuel Payments made to former UK residents living abroad is in the following table.

Winter fuel payments

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Gibraltar	168	135	99	88	73
Republic of Ireland	5,969	5,093	4,271	3,450	2,367
Austria	177	132	113	86	45
Belgium	178	145	124	103	65
Denmark	87	68	49	49	32
Finland	55	46	40	29	21
France	16,077	13,562	11,458	9,412	6,472
Germany	983	797	645	542	369
Greece	1,111	864	653	478	271
Italy	1,114	921	727	587	360
Luxembourg	20	15	16	13	9
Netherlands	224	203	169	143	83
Norway	61	48	30	20	13
Portugal	1,510	1,163	907	720	452
Spain	31,145	27,270	24,615	21,271	16,215
Sweden	169	121	90	67	40
Switzerland	247	164	111	87	45
Iceland	7	2	4	5	4
Liechtenstein	1	1	1	1	0
Malta	870	694	572	414	0
Republic of Estonia	4	8	7	7	0
Republic of Latvia	27	14	12	5	0
Republic of Lithuania	8	6	3	3	0
Hungary	156	116	85	57	0
Poland	190	149	113	68	0

Winter fuel payments

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Cyprus	4,675	3,763	2,991	2,170	0
Republic of Slovenia	18	11	4	2	0
The Czech Republic	32	19	8	3	0
The Slovak Republic	6	3	2	2	0
Total	65,289	55,533	47,919	39,882	26,936

Notes:

1. 2008-09 is the latest year for which information is available.

2. Since 2007 people moving to Bulgaria and Romania have been eligible to continue receiving Winter Fuel Payments. As the payment system can not yet make automatic payments to this group no relevant statistics are available.

Source:

Winter Fuel Payment System

Winter Fuel Payments: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of people in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(b)* Medway who are in receipt of the winter fuel allowance who are aged (i) between 60 and 65 years, (ii) between 66 and 70 years, (iii) between 71 and 75 years, (iv) between 76 and 80 years and (v) 81 years and older. [15114]

Steve Webb: The latest, available information on the number of individuals in receipt of winter fuel payments is in the following table.

Age	*Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency*	*Medway local authority*
60-64	5,520	14,010
65-69	3,930	9,950
70-74	3,300	8,380
75-79	2,420	6,570
80 or older	2,950	8,340

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Numbers are for 2008-09, the latest year for which figures are available.

3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 6 September 2010

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Access to Work

8. **Jane Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on proposals to change the access to work programme to increase opportunities for disabled people to find employment. [10309]

10. **Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on proposals to change the access to work programme to increase opportunities for disabled people to find employment. [10311]

[Official Report, 26 July 2010, Vol. 514, c. 610W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Miller:

Errors have been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Battersea (Jane Ellison) and the hon. Member for Stafford (Jeremy Lefroy) on 26 July 2010. The words 'The Government Equalities Office is' in the second paragraph should be replaced with 'We are'.

The answer given was as follows:

Maria Miller *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

The coalition agreement made a commitment on Access to Work. The Government Equalities Office is developing plans for delivering this commitment and further details will be announced in due course.

The correct answer should have been:

Maria Miller *[holding answer 22 July 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

The coalition agreement made a commitment on Access to Work. We are developing plans for delivering this commitment and further details will be announced in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensions: Index Linking

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in expenditure in the Financial Assistance Scheme attributable to the use of the consumer prices index for pension indexation in the next five years. [11057]

[Official Report, 27 July 2010, Vol. 514, c. 1154-1155W.]

Letter of correction from Steve Webb:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) in response to Named Day PQ 10/11057 on 27 July 2010.

The answer given was as follows (error indicated by italics):

Steve Webb: The figures show the estimated annual reduction in Financial Assistance Scheme expenditure as a result of switching the indexation of payments in payment and revaluation of payments in deferment from RPI to CPI from 2011.

Figures are in cash terms and are rounded to the nearest £100,000. The reduction represents 0.1% of estimated total FAS spending in *each* year.

	CPI from 2011 (£)
2011	100,000
2012	300,000
2013	700,000
2014	1,300,000
2015	2,200,000

Data and modelling limitations mean it is not possible to provide details of the saving for indexation only. However we estimate that the saving relating to revaluation would be greater than that for indexation.

The correct answer should have been (correction indicated by italics):

Steve Webb: The figures show the estimated annual reduction in Financial Assistance Scheme expenditure as a result of switching the indexation of payments in payment and revaluation of payments in deferment from RPI to CPI from 2011.

Figures are in cash terms and are rounded to the nearest £100,000. The reduction represents 0.1% of estimated total FAS spending in *the first* year.

	CPI from 2011 (£)
2011	100,000
2012	300,000
2013	700,000
2014	1,300,000
2015	2,200,000

Data and modelling limitations mean it is not possible to provide details of the saving for indexation only. However we estimate that the saving relating to revaluation would be greater than that for indexation.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 16 September 2010

DEFENCE

Military Bases

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many permanent UK military headquarters there are; where each is located; who has command at each such headquarters; and what the staff is of each. [8815]

[Official Report, 20 July 2010, Vol. 514, c. 182-84W.]

Letter of correction from Andrew Robathan:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames) on 20 July 2010.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 July 2010]*: There are five permanent military headquarters (HQ) in the UK. Details of the location, who has command and staff employed at each are shown in the following table:

				Of which:	
Military HQ	*Location*	*Commanded by*	*Number of staff*	*Military*	*Civilian*
Ministry of Defence (MOD)—Head Office	MOD Main Building London	Secretary of State for Defence	2,920	1,070	1,850
Navy—HQ Navy Command	Portsmouth	Commander in Chief Fleet	1,420	863	557
Army—HQ Land Forces	Andover	Commander in Chief Land Forces	2,077	1,075	1,002
RAF—HQ Air Command	High Wycombe	Commander in Chief Air	2,099	1,476	623
Permanent Joint HQ—Operations Joint HQ	Northwood	Chief of Joint Operations	593	476	117

The answer should have been:

Mr Robathan: The information is provided in the following table.

				Of which:	
Military HQ	*Location*	*Commanded by*	*Number of staff*	*Military*	*Civilian*
Ministry of Defence (MOD)—Head Office	MOD Main Building London	Secretary of State for Defence	2,920	1,070	1,850
Navy—HQ Navy Command	Portsmouth	Commander in Chief Fleet	[1]1,420	863	557
Army—HQ Land Forces	Andover	Commander in Chief Land Forces	1,988	986	1,002
RAF—HQ Air Command	High Wycombe	Commander in Chief Air	[1]1,856	1,233	623
Permanent Joint HQ—Operations Joint HQ	Northwood	Chief of Joint Operations	593	476	117

[1] Figures include staff co-located into the Navy and Air Command HQs, covering a number of functions, particularly in the personnel and training areas.

WALES

Expenditure Reductions: Policing

9. **Chris Evans** (Islwyn) (Lab/Co-op): What discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effects on front-line policing in Wales of planned expenditure reductions. [13141]

Mr Jones: The question of funding for the police is a matter that will have to await the comprehensive spending review, but I am heartened by the comments of the National Audit Office and the Wales Audit Office about how it should be possible to effect reductions of £1 billion without any effect at all on front-line policing.

[Official Report, 8 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 310.]

Letter of correction form David Jones:

An error has been identified in the response provided to the hon. Member for Islwyn (Chris Evans) during Welsh oral questions on 8 September 2010.

The Minister intended to refer to a report by the Wales Audit Office, the *Audit Commission* and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Policing. The Minister did not intend to refer to the National Audit Office in his response.